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THURSDAY, MAY 3RD, 2012

LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN

SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 4.

RIGHT: Cowbridge under-15s managed quite an achievement this season - read all about how these young rugby players excelled on page 36 of this week's GEM!

OBITUARY
Michael Meredith, Cowbridge

Michael Meredith: He died peacefully with his family at his side on Tuesday, May 1, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

A much-loved husband to Leonor (Leo), a deeply-cherished father to Sarah and Giles, and an adored and devoted grandfather to Oliver, Henry, Freddie, Charlton and Mathilda.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on May 15, at 2pm. Family flowers only, please.

Donations to the British Heart Foundation and Wales Air Ambulance by envelope on the day or www.justgiving.com/michaelmeredith.

LANDOWNER PUTS CAR PARKING PLAN INTO TOWN'S MIX

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A SURPRISE planning application could lead to another 450 parking spaces being created in Cowbridge.

Cardiff architects, the Robertson Francis Partnership, are intending to apply for planning permission on behalf of a Cowbridge landowner, and say that discussions with Vale Council have been going on for some time.

The proposed site adjoins the existing town hall car park, and is on land where the old British Legion Club currently stands. At present, the owner has planning permission for residential housing on this site.

Jonathan Williams, a spokesman for the Robertson Francis Partnership, told The GEM that the proposed car parking site also included land on the other side of the River Thaw.

He added that his architects' practice had long experience of car parking projects, including working with the NCP company.

He said: "We have been in detailed discussions with local councillors and council officers to explore the possibility of providing a car parking facility on the above sites.

"The intention is to accommodate approximately 450 car parking spaces to alleviate the current shortfall in the town."

He said that it would be a commercial operation, and that it was too early to talk about car parking charges.

He added that the proposals were still "evolving", as discussions took place with council officers.

He said, however, that at this stage it looked as if changes might be made to the highway configuration behind the town hall, were the proposed new parking to go ahead.

He stated that the changes could "...create a much more pleasant townscape adjacent to the River Thaw, improving access to the High Street and offering the potential to expand the town centre".

The loss of parking spaces is, of course, a central plank in the opposition to the closure of the Cowbridge Livestock Market.

Mr Williams said that a planning application was not imminent, but could be put forward in the summer if talks progress.

Dr Chris Pearce of the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Residents' Group said that he found it impossible to comment, because as yet there were no details to examine.

He said: "It's all a bit vague at the moment."

Alun John, the chairman of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, agreed that without details. it was hard to give a detailed response.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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He went out of his way to help others

MAY I through your letters page, to pay tribute to John Hobbs, who was the Barry branch chairman of the Royal British Legion. (*His death was reported in last week's GEM)*.

I met John, through the good work that he was doing through the Royal British Legion. I remember him as a man who would always go out of his way to help others.

One particular matter that springs to mind was when the new Barry Memorial Hall manager erected signs calling it the 'The Barry Memo'. This not only at the time upset members of the public, but outraged members of the Legion, who joined me and other members of the Barry Town Council in getting these signs changed.

John was committed to the British Legion and often visited schools in the area, including Jenner Park Primary to tell the children about the good work of the Legion and about those who gave their lives for our country.

John also worked hard for Remembrance Day, and was heavily involved in organising this event.

He was a gentle giant, a real people's man and a local hero. John Hobbs did so much for people and it is really sad to hear that he has now gone

I am sure he will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Richard Bertin, Barry.

Open message to all councillors...

DEAR Councillors, as I walk the Vale regularly, I see no evidence of your zero tolerance at work.

Everywhere I walk, I see litter in hedgerows, dog fouling just left or dog mess bagged up and thrown into bushes.

You cannot educate people who do not care about the environment; naming and fining is the only thing they understand – even then, they will still offend when they think nobody else is looking.

As for cigarette butts, just look on the pavement outside any pub or restaurant; it's disgusting. I have been waiting for years for some real action – and I am still waiting!

P D Quinn,
Barry Island

Titanic not just about health and safety

AS a retired professional marine/mechanical engineer, I feel your correspondent, Mr Delaney, is out of his depth on the subject of the Titanic.

In the early 20th century, there were proper codes of construction in place, but slightly less effective than ours today. It was through these early mishaps that science progressed...is there any other way?

Even then, there was the Factories Act relating to factory safety, which included health, albeit somewhat "flexible".

One of the problems with early steel vessels was the quality of the steel and the methods of use. Steel impurities at that time could lead to low fracture resistance, manifesting itself in grain boundary fracture at low temperature.

But also, crack propagation along rivet holes, which at that time were punched, *not* drilled, set up stresses before constructing was completed.

It was not until January 1943 (cold weather) that serious investigation into the mechanics of ductile-brittle behaviour at freezing temperatures was instigated, after the T2 tanker 'Schenectady' broke in half, while being fitted out in a ship yard in Oregon, USA.

So I feel 'health and safety', as Mr Delaney would portray it, is somewhat inaccurate.

James Tuttle, C.Eng.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

SPITFIRES OR HURRICANES?

The Battle of Britain argument rages on...

THE GEM of April 19 carried a report from the Barry Men's Forum entitled 'Build-up to the Battle of Britain'.

This evoked strong family memories for me, as both of my parents worked at Rolls-Royce Derby, which produced the Merlin engine that successfully powered all versions of the "Spit" – and also the Mosquito Bomber, later in the Second World War, and other famous aircraft.

My late father was a skilled aero-engineer at Rolls Royce and my late mother was secretary/PA to Lord Hives, managing director, whilst the engine was being developed.

Both of them survived air-raids on the factory in Nightingale Road, Derby (it is still there).

A famous Welsh scientist, Dr RV Jones (a distant relative of my late Welsh mother, maiden name: Jones), discovered that the Luftwaffe were using radio beams (code name 'Knickebein') to more accurately guide their bomber stream.

The first target – and Luftwaffe target No1 – was, Dr Jones discovered, R-R Derby, where the cross beams coalesced over the factory.

If the Luftwaffe had succeeded in destroying it, they could have won the Battle of Britain without possibly firing a shot: no engines, no replacements to fit in to air frames – end of story. Eventually, the beams were bent off course.

A few statistics: the Vickers Armstrong Spitfire, powered by the R-R Merlin engine II or III, was first delivered to 19 Squadron at Duxford near Cambridge in 1938 (now an excellent museum).

The engine was liquid-cooled and the aircraft armed with eight .330 machine guns. Max speed was 367mph.

Mosquito relied on surprise and speed

Later versions increased the speed to 416mph for the Vickers Armstrong Supermarine Spitfire, which had two 20mm cannon and two .50 machine guns. Plus it could carry 1,000lbs of bombs or rocket projectiles.

The famous wooden Mosquito, which bombed the Amiens Gestapo HQ, had no armament but could carry a bomb load of 2,000lbs and relied on surprise and its speed, powered by two R-R Merlin XXT engines of 1,250hp each (max speed 380mph).

Finally, within the RAF, debate still rages on the relative merits of the Hurricane or the iconic Spitfire; generally the Spitfire was more manoueverable, but the Hurricane was of sturder construction, could better survive enemy-afflicted damage and was a superior gun platform.

This debate still causes heated arguments among veterans and others alike.

Christopher Short, Barry,
(*Ex-RAF Regiment*).

CYSTIC FIBROSIS SWAP SHOP

FOLLOWING the Swap Shop held in Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, last Saturday in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Week, I'd like to thank everyone who came along to take part.

It was a successful afternoon and we've raised £600 for Cystic Fibrosis. A big thanks to all the local businesses who helped support the event and the wonderful ladies who donated delicious homemade cakes.

Also thanks to The Boverton Castle Sunday night quiz team, who donated £50 after reading about our event in The GEM.

Sarah Morton,
Llantwit Major.

Last push for the Eisteddfod target!

DURING the last year, the Dinas Powys Eisteddfod committee have been busy raising funds for the National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held at Llandow in the first week of August.

With a target of £12,000, activities have been many and varied, including a talk by Rhodri Morgan, a Salsa evening held in the Parish Hall, a family treasure hunt and barbecue, historic walk around the village, a quiz, and an evening with the Ecumenical Seven.

Although we are gradually reaching our target, there are a few remaining events being organised which, hopefully, will enable us to finally reach the target.

These are: An evening with the historian, Dr John Davies, to be held in The Lee Hall, Dinas Powys on Friday, May 25 at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 to include light refreshment, available from Julia Beasley (02920 512185) or Elinor Elias Jones (02920 512405).

A golf day will be held at Dinas Powys Golf Club on May 20 from 10am-7pm. Teams of four no handicap greater than 20), cost £130. All day buffet and prizes. Contact Mr John Huw Williams (02920 513620).

Come and join us, there's something for everyone.

Jayne Lewis,
Dinas Powys.

Making sense of school holidays

I WOULD like to inform any readers who were affected by the difference in the school Easter holidays between local education authorities, that this is set to continue until 2016.

Next year, February half terms, as well as Easter, will not be the same across authorities in Wales.

I teach six miles away in Bridgend, but live in the Vale, where my child attends school. Obviously, if these dates are set in stone, I will be taking my child out of school during term time – in order to spend my half term with my family.

I have never done this before, but feel I have no choice.

I welcome any comments from the people who set these dates, as to whether there will be any opportunity to reset them and, therefore, stop this ludicrous and preventable situation.

Name and address supplied

Clearing a path to the Heritage Coast...

THE Heritage Coast footpath is being improved as part of the All Wales Coastal Path initiative. New steps are being installed at Cwm Mawr to make it easier for people to enjoy the walks and scenic views

Pictures by
HEATHER MARCH

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL MAY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	04.26	8.9	17.01	9.1
04 Fri	05.23	9.3	17.54	9.5
05 Sat	06.15	9.9	18.43	10.0
06 Sun	07.04	10.2	19.31	10.3
07 Mon	07.54	10.4	20.16	10.4
08 Tues	08.41	10.3	21.05	10.2
09 Wed	09.28	10.0	21.51	9.9
10 Thur	10.16	9.5	22.38	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Cowbridge woman's £2,000 boost for a disability charity

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A FORMER Cowbridge Comprehensive School student, who supports the organisation 'Disability Challengers', raised more than £2,000 for the charity by completing the London Marathon.

Liz Harris (30) grew up in Cowbridge and works for an IT company near London. Over the weekends, she volunteers for the Guilford-based Disability Challengers' Saturday Club.

Liz, who admitted to not being the most sporty person until she got the fitness bug in the last couple of years, told The GEM: "I want to thank everyone who has sponsored me over the last few weeks.

"I have now raised over £2,000 for Disability Challengers which was £600 more than my target. I completed the marathon in 4 hours 50 minutes."

Liz said that the day was very hectic. "I left home at 6:30am to make the trip to Greenwich Park.

'Fortunately, the weather was kind to runners and spectators as it had been rather unsettled.

"I headed to my 'pen' surrounded by various fancy dress costumes from rhinos to tigers and made my way on the slow march to the start line.

"Over the start line, it was great to finally be on my way, after many months of training, enduring conditions ranging from freezing weather to bright sunshine.

"The miles went by, and it was a definite boost to cross Tower Bridge and then see my family at halfway, supporting me. I don't know who was more surprised that we had spotted each other!

"From then on, the crowd's enthusiasm increased and they were with you every step of the way shouting encouragement.

"Finally, reaching The Embankment, the end was almost in sight and the realisation started to dawn that I was almost there. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Big Ben started to chime and as I headed to The Mall, the roar from the crowd was amazing.

"I headed around the final corner in front of Buckingham Palace and headed for the finish line.

"Crossing the finishing line, I was ecstatic and I did shed a tear as I received my medal. I'd done it – after many years of watching it on the TV."

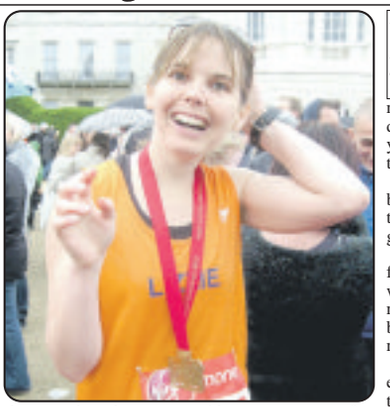
Liz's family and boyfriend soon got to the finishing line to congratulate her.

She added: "It was a fantastic day and one I would definitely like to repeat in the future, because it was such a rewarding experience.

"I do know that I have enabled disabled teenagers to try new activities for a whole month at Challengers' Guildford youth group.

"It's a great charity that offers any child or young person with any impairment a place to be social, have fun and learn to make free choices in a safe environment as well as allowing their parents some free time!"

Liz's sponsorship page http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/lizzieRH is still open and donations can also be made at Sorrento Furnishers in Cowbridge. For information about the charity, go to towww.disabilitychallengers.org/.



LEFT: 'I've made it!' A relieved Liz finished in a very respectable time of 4 hours 50 minutes.

Caroline (18) lands a top internship!

COWBRIDGE resident Caroline Lakin (18) a year-13 student at Howell's School, Llandaff, has won a place on this year's prestigious HSBC undergraduate internship programme.

Cowbridge s Caroline Lakin (18) will take up her HSBC internship next year.

She will take it up next year, prior to studying business management at Exeter University.

At A-Level, Caroline is studying business studies, history and religious studies, having achieved five A* and five A grades at GCSE.

She is interested in working in advertising, but ultimately, her ambition is have a managerial role in a successful business in Cardiff.

As part of the selection process, Caroline had to fill in a detailed form, followed by a questionnaire, and was then invited to go to the HSBC headquarters in Canary Wharf for a face-to-face interview. The number of internships is limited and she is obviously delighted to have been successful.

She said: "I have always been interested in taking a gap year, and the HSBC internship gives me the opportunity to combine experience in the corporate world of business and my love of travelling during the year.

"Everyone was extremely welcoming at HSBC, which increased my excitement about the potential internship.

"I found out that I had gained a place on the programme two days after the interview, which came the day before my 18th birthday."

One-man Charles Dickens show for the book festival

COWBRIDGE Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) is making its own contribution to the Cowbridge Book Festival by staging a one-man show on Charles Dickens.

On Saturday, May 12, Lloyd Lee returns to the town to perform his one-man show, *The Squire of Gadshill*, in which he portrays Charles Dickens as an old man, ruminating on his past life and fictional creations.

Lee (a CADS veteran) is familiar with the role. Between 2004 and 2008 he played Dickens in *The Sparkler of Albion* (by John Greco and David Parker).

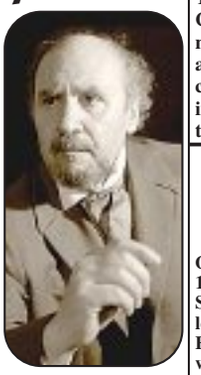
A CADS spokeswoman said: "This also reconstructed Dickens' life and became London's longest-running one-man show.

"As one critic put it, 'Lee's ability to act out conversations involving up to five different characters was astounding, an amazing level of commitment and skill'.

She continued: "This January, Lee performed the premiere of *The Squire of Gadshill* in Cowbridge, since when he has taken it on a successful UK tour."

The show is to take place on one night only, at the Market Theatre, the Cattle Market, 7.30pm–9.30pm.

For tickets (£6) telephone 01446 774827; or Ticketline 02920 230130; or from David Barnes Dry Cleaning, 35, High Street, Cowbridge.



ABOVE: Lee Lloyd as Charles Dickens.

Legion meeting

THE Cowbridge branch of the Royal British Legion has had to postpone its next meeting.

It was scheduled to be held on May 10, but will now take place on May 21, at 7.30pm in the council chambers in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Old Hall Bridge

RECENT results at the Old Hall Bridge Club, Cowbridge, were as follows:

April 4: First, Teri Pollard and Judith Nunn; second, Diana Kendrick and Marjorie Morgan.

April 18: First Week Club Championship: First, Glenda Roberts and Colin Easterbrook; second, Susan and Graham Norris.

April 25: Second Week Club Championship: First, Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft; second, Pam Higgs and Sylvia Phillips.

SB

Read your GEM online
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ABOVE: The main body of the tree fell close to the library. (Photograph by Alan Brigham).

Narrow escape as tree falls down in Old Hall Gardens

ABOVE: This photograph (by Lucy Hailes) shows how the falling tree has scratched the Charter Trust's bench. The tree appears to have come down because it was rotten inside.

TWO buildings in Cowbridge had a narrow escape when a large tree came crashing down during high winds over the weekend.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Fortunately, the tree fell in a direction that meant that only relatively minor damage was done to Cowbridge Library, when a branch pierced the roof. Had the tree trunk itself fallen on the building, the damage would have been immense.

Similarly, members of the Cowbridge Charter Trust must have been breathing a sigh of relief, as it was only last summer that they had completed a significant remodelling of the Old Hall facade.

Had the tree fallen in the wrong direction, the facade could have been obliterated.

As it was, the only damage suffered to any recent Charter Trust work was some scratches on a bench – one of seven recently installed in the Old Hall Gardens.

In a statement, a Vale Council spokeswoman said: "Cowbridge Library will be closed until further notice.

"The library roof was damaged by a falling tree in the high winds on Sunday, April 27, and a further section of the tree fell during the night.

"The remainder of the tree must be made safe before the library can be re-opened, and damage must be repaired before power can be restored to the building.

"All efforts will be made to do this quickly."

Drawing lesson at art society

ON Thursday, May 10, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome local artist and tutor Heather Simmonds who will lead a practical drawing session.

This is a very popular event where members usually draw portraits from a live model.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm–9pm) and visitors are welcome.

For further details about the society, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

AUCTION

A GLAMORGAN Hunt auction takes place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebettyn, Llansannor, CF71 7RX on May 11 at 7pm.

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'LUNCH FOR THE QUEEN WAS THE PINNACLE!'

– says catering team at Margam House

STAFF of the Vale-based Town and Country catering team hosted two very special guests last week when the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh stopped at Margam House Orangery for lunch on the Welsh leg of her Diamond Jubilee tour of Britain.

ABOVE: Gareth Phillips, John Cook and their team of chefs who cooked lunch for the Queen on her tour.

Stephen Banks and his team, part of the Town and Country Hotels Group, which includes The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, were appointed to prepare and serve lunch for the Queen during her Jubilee visit.

They had been asked to supply a sample menu using local products and producers for tasting, and their royal booking was subsequently confirmed.

Gareth Phillips, head chef for seven years at The Best Western Plus New House Country Hotel, Cardiff, and of Town and Country Catering, co-ordinated the event using chefs from across the group, including John Cook, head chef of Oscars, Cowbridge, and Matthew Elvins, chef de partie at The Bear Hotel.

There were 150 invited guests, including Assembly members, councillors, celebrities and the Grand Slam-winning Welsh rugby team present.

They enjoyed a canapé reception followed by a menu of: *sewin and smoked salmon mousse, served with a tomato and sweet pepper chutney; cannon of Welsh lamb, served with a fondant potato, quenelle of mint pea puree and finished with red wine reduction jus.*

Coffee or tea, served with Merlin liqueur fudge and miniature Welsh cakes completed the repast.

Town and Country Catering was established in 1992 and is run by Stephen Banks of the prestigious 4-star Best Western Plus New House Country Hotel, Cardiff.

Stephen said: "The team and I feel privileged to have been appointed as the caterers for this prestigious event.

"As part of the Town and Country Hotels group, we have more than 20 years' experience and have catered for many different types of events.

"This, however, has been the pinnacle of all our hard work."

Cowbridge karate instructor honoured

Instructors and black belts at CKJK Senior Camp 2012 — Shihan Dave Jones (back row, centre right), Sempai Kerri Husk (front centre), Sempai Joel Hill (front right).

MANY congratulations to Shihan (Master) Dave Jones, chief instructor at CKJK, who was presented with the rank of Fifth Dan CKJK by the club's senseis (teachers).

Shihan Dave has been a member of the club for more than 20 years and chief instructor for the last decade. During this time he has made a huge contribution to the club and to Karate in Wales.

Also, congratulations to Sempai's Kerri Husk and Joel Hill on attaining their First Dan Black Belts at the CKJK Senior Camp at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff.

After more than five years of practising karate, the pair were subject to a gruelling weekend of physical training, and thorough examination of their techniques and understanding.

As expected, it was an impressive display of commitment and determination from all students, many of whom attained new grades.

CKJK would like to thank everyone involved for their huge effort and continued support.

CKJK welcome new members at our dojo at Cowbridge Leisure Centre. Sessions are on Mondays and Fridays at 6pm-7pm (juniors) and 7pm-8.30pm (seniors).

Balancing act for Fire Service after car leaves road!

FIRE Service crews from three stations were needed when a crashed vehicle ended up balanced precariously on a hedge last week.

The incident happened at 7.05 pm on Wednesday, April 25, when a car which was travelling through the lane between Pentre Meurig Cross and Llysworney, hit the kerb, was catapulted over a fence, and came to land on its side, resting on a hedge.

Fire and rescue crews from Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Bridgend attended.

Keith White, the watch manager from Cowbridge, said: "This was one of the most challenging accidents I have ever attended in my time as a firefighter.

"Not only was the driver trapped in the car, but the car was in a dangerous position, balancing on the hedge in the field.

LEFT: The car which came to rest on top of a hedge.

"This meant that before I could deploy the firefighters to start cutting him out of the car, we had to ensure the car was thoroughly secured, and would not move when we were cutting him out.

"Once the car was secured, in conjunction with the ambulance service, we freed the trapped driver, and brought him out from the rear of the car."

Car parking in Cowbridge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr John said: "This isn't the Vale Council's idea and it is not on their land. My understanding is that this has been proposed before, and then it was turned down by the council.

"To me, it is a surprising co-incidence that this has emerged at this time. However, our campaign against the cattle market closure is about more than just parking."

The Vale Council issued the following statement: "*The council is aware that a scheme was being considered, although very little detail has been shared with the council to date.*

"*General discussions have taken place with Coun Jarvie.*

"*That said, if an application for planning permission is submitted, the council will carefully consider and assess the proposal, paying particular regard to the quality of car parking promoted, as well as a full assessment of the impacts that could potentially arise as a consequencel.*

"*The assessment will include full consultation with the town council and businesses.*"

Choir builds to show

OVER recent weeks, Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's busy schedule has provided them with the opportunity to polish their performance.

Following concerts in Calne, Wiltshire (for the Royal British Legion) and Rhiwbina, Cardiff (in aid of Leukemia and Lymphoma Research), the choir's most recent public performance was in St Luke's Church, Canton, Cardiff.

This event was used to launch a fundraising appeal for maintenance of the church, which is renowned for its superb acoustics.

The soloist was Claire Delaney, an accomplished young soprano, currently a student at Trinity College, Camarthen.

Now, musical director Shelley Thomas Brown, accompanist Sandra Williams and choristers are focussed on final rehearsals for its flagship event, the annual concert in Cowbridge on May 19. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start (tickets are £7.50).

This year's guest soloist is Adam Gilbert, who at one time lived in Cowbridge.

He is now a student in his final year at the internationally-renowned Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and is recognised as one of this country's most promising young baritones.

Tickets are available from Sorrento Furnishers, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and Cowbridge Leisure Centre (all Cowbridge); Gwynneth J Morgan, Optometrist (Llantwit Major); and the charity shop on Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

AW

Adam Gilbert.

READER'S VIEW

What does 'no net loss' mean?

I REFER to the letter from Couns Hunter Jarvie and Geoff Cox published in your edition of April 19 under the headline 'No net loss of parking for cars if cattle market sold'.

William Thompson (Lord Kelvin, 1824-1907) wrote, and I quote: "*I often say that when you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it; but when you cannot measure it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind.*"

"No net loss" means absolutely nothing unless the numerator to which it refers, the area or location that is being referred to, and a period of time, are defined.

It is probably true that across the Vale of Glamorgan, or even Wales, there will be 'no net loss of public car parking spaces' if the Cowbridge market site is redeveloped – but at that specific location most certainly there will be losses – and your readers have been given no indication of how/where such spaces may be provided.

The letter, in a side step that Shane Williams would be proud of, ignores the range of opinions and obvious public disquiet that, had the writers been at the demonstration, could have been taken in to account, previous to them signing any letter of comfort to the press about an important public resource for Cowbridge, its residents and traders.

Dr Paul Langmaid, CBE
Cowbridge

Barbershop puts members in the mood for a song!

LALESTON WI NEWS

MEMBERS were in good voice once more as they joined in the singing provided by a barbershop quartet: four gentlemen from the Cowbridge area entertained with an evening of harmony singing which was very much enjoyed.

The president informed members that Pen-y-Fai WI had joined link group and members were pleased to welcome them and looked forward to meeting them at link meetings. Arrangements were made for the visit to the GFWI spring council meeting in Barry.

The next meeting will be the resolution meeting on May 3 and there will also be a bring and buy sale that evening.

Since the April meeting, 15 members have travelled to Barry to attend the spring council meeting. There were 405 members present, representing 68 Glamorgan institutes.

The first part of the meeting took the form of reports given by the officers of the committee and by the heads of the many organisations within the GFWI.

The morning's guest speaker was Janice Langley, chair of the membership committee, who spoke about ideas for encouraging new people to the WI and recommended that the new constitution be read.

In the afternoon session, Lowri Morgan of S4C discussed her visit to the Brazilian rain forest and her walking visit in the Arctic; both talks were accompanied by computer presentations.

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LOCAL CHARITIES ARE TO BENEFIT AS...

Forty authors (*and the Gruffalo*) get set to appear at the Cowbridge Book Festival

IF you have not booked your tickets for the Cowbridge Book Festival, it's time to get cracking!

More than 40 distinguished and enthusiastic authors – and The Gruffalo – are about to descend on the town and all of them are giving freely of their time to support the festival's chosen charities.

This year, all proceeds will be divided equally between the Noah's Ark Appeal, Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

With such a wealth of talent on parade, choosing your events may be difficult.

To help you choose you will need a festival brochure or flyer, both of which are available at local libraries, pubs, and shops, or you can visit the festival website at *www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk.*

A highlight of the festival will be Jon Gower's *The Story of Wales,* which accompanies the recent landmark BBC series. Jon will be in conversation with Phil George, producer of this highly-acclaimed epic account of Welsh history.

One very different event to watch out for will be '*We Shall Never Surrender - Wartime Diaries 1939-1945*'.

Christopher Grace will present the story of the Second World War, from extracts of the diaries of nine men and women who lived through it.

Christopher will be assisted by four local readers, the Reverend Heather Weddell, Margo Squires, Jeffery Heenan-Davies and John Cheeseman.

Two witnesses, Margaret Greenwood and Phil Irish, will give first-hand accounts of their wartime experiences, and we shall also hear the voices of Churchill, Chamberlain and Vera Lynn.

It looks as if this year's Crime Night will be just as popular as last year. Crime writers Belinda Bauer, MR Hall and Martin O'Brien will discuss their latest books and their unlikely heroes and heroines.

Those interested in crime fiction should not miss out on the talk by Ann Cleeves about her new DI Vera Stanhope novel *The Glass Room.* Now a major ITV drama series, Vera has recently returned to our screens to the delight of many fans.

From contemporary to medieval crime and a discussion between Susanna Gregory and Professor Bernard Knight, who are b'th founder members of the 'Medieval Murderers", a group of historical mystery writers.

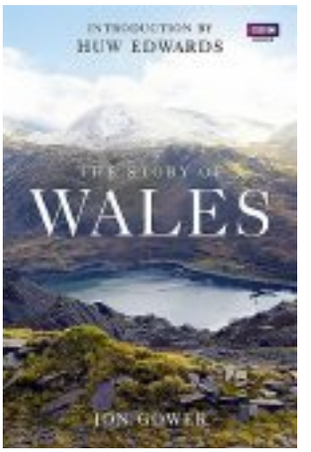
Susanna has written or contributed to more than 60 books. Professor Bernard Knight served as a Home Office pathologist and as Professor of Forensic Pathology in the University of Wales.

He is author of the successful *Crowner John* series of historical mysteries, and also the Richard Pryor series of forensic novels.

Don't forget Phil Cope will open the photographic exhibition on Friday, May 4, and talk about his beautifully illustrated book "Holy Wells of Wales".

Tickets for all these events are available from Barnes (the drycleaners), Old Hall, or by phoning 01446 774827 and also from TicketlineUK.

Stella Cheeseman



Jon Gower will be discussing his history of Wales which accompanied the epic BBC series screened earlier this year.

Charity to raise funds for cancer

A COWBRIDGE charity hopes to turn the high street pink this June – to raise money in aid of cancer research.

The Cowbridge Strawberry Street Committee has teamed up with Breast Cancer Care Cymru, and they want to turn Cowbridge High Street pink from June 9-23.

Local residents and businesses are being urged to put on their own fundraising events in the shops along the street and the campaign will culminate in a Strawberry Tea event in the Old Hall Gardens on June 23 that will feature stalls, music and games.

You can register to receive a Strawberry Tea pack that contains balloons, leaflets, banners, games, invitations and posters for you to promote and decorate your event.

The group includes people who have gone through treatment for the disease themselves, so they are desperate to raise money for a worthwhile cause.

Ideas for fundraising include pink displays in windows, selling pink food and drink, dressing up in pink, raffles, tombolas and competitions, or perhaps being brave and waxing your legs or dying your hair pink.

*For more information contact Rachael Power or Jay Shepp*ard on 029 20234070.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Birthday celebration

YOUNG at Heart Club member, Mrs Gwen David, had a lovely surprise when she attended the club meeting on April 26.

Gwen, who was celebrating her 90th birthday, was presented with a bouquet, by club chairman Arthur Thomas.

This was followed with birthday cake during the tea interval.

Gwen was unaware that plans were being made by her family for the surprise party, which would include relatives, neighbours and friends from the Young At Heart Club.

The Star Inn was packed when Gwen arrived to the singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

A buffet had been prepared by Trish and Clive, and it was altogether a very pleasant occasion, and a time to meet up with old acquaintances.

•*Message from Gwen;* She would like to thank everyone for their birthday messages, family, neighbours of Treoes and friends in the Young at Heart Club.

Concert boost

THE recently-held Bella Donna concert which took place in the Treoes community hall, raised £414 which will go towards the Eisteddfod appeal. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Quiz charities

DURING the past year, a quiz night has taken place in the Star Inn, Treoes, raising the fantastic sum of £949.40. Organisers Judith Philips, Mathew Newman and Fran Watts would like to thank everyone for their support.

Money raised will be donated to the following; Samaritans £106, Stroke £206, Breast Cancer £180, Heart Foundation £133, Help for Heroes £200, Cancer Research £86, Poppy Appeal £39.40.

A quiz night will continue in the Star Inn on Friday evening.

'Treasures' unveiled when medieval church was moved to museum

AT the April meeting, members of Cowbridge Friendship Club were transported back in time from Llandeilo Tal-y-bont to Cardiff, with the help of Sara Huws from St Fagans Museum, who gave an excellent talk with the aid of slides.

Sara went on to talk about the medieval church from Llandeilo Tal-y-bont, the first church of its kind ever to be moved and re-erected at a British open-air museum.

The discovery of wall paintings underneath the lime-washed walls provides a fascinating insight into worship centuries ago.

St Teilo's church was built during the 13th century and abandoned in the 1960s, it was scheduled as an ancient monument by Cadw in 1980.

As the decaying church could not be saved at its original site, it was offered to the museum in 1984 for dismantling and re-erecting at St Fagans. As the careful process of dismantling the church began, two amazing wall-paintings from the 15th and 16th centuries were discovered, as well as numerous texts and areas of decorative patterns. These were all carefully recorded, removed and conserved.

The delicate removal of layers of lime-wash from the surface of the wall-paintings provided vital clues to the date of the original building.

The removal of mortar from the outside walls enabled any Victorian or later alterations to be filtered out.

After dismantling, the foundations were excavated, uncovering further clues to the church's construction.

The museum decided to rebuild the church as it could have appeared around 1510-30. Architectural clues from this period can be used to understand the social, religious and political framework within which the church was constructed and furnished.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month; so if you, or someone you know, would like to join with transport provided please telephone 01656 668446 to find out more.

Pat Smith, Leader.

PUPILS IMPRESS VALE COUNCIL WITH AN 'ENTHUSIASTIC PRESENTATION'

St Nicholas School staff Caroline Fouracre, Ruth Wiltshire and Alison Thomas meet the mayor of Schuettorf, Germany, who hoped that they would learn a lot about German education, and who referred to the project as a large European classroom .

by **LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS**

PUPILS at St Nicholas primary school recently impressed Vale Council members, after giving a presentation on a European initiative, which encourages schools to forge links to enhance children's cultural learning.

The Comenius Project aims: "*to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and education staff of the diversity of European cultures and languages, and the value of this diversity*" – and to: "*help young people to acquire basic life skills and competences for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship*".

The Vale Council invited St Nicholas Primary School to make a presentation, and the pupils involved left quite an impression on their civic audience.

A spokesperson told The GEM: "The headteacher, Mr Williams, attended with two members of staff – Mrs Fouracre and Mr Downey, together with three pupils.

"The committee was impressed by the way in which both staff and pupils were engaged with the project.

"The project has been embraced enthusiastically by the staff and pupils at St Nicholas School and will no doubt assist in broadening their knowledge and understanding of other European cultures and languages."

Headteacher Mr Williams was "proud" of the way the pupils applied themselves and said that it was an experience not entirely new to them.

He told The GEM: "We sent a group of pupils to present to the council committee using Powerpoint presentations. It went very well!

"One of our big pushes here is 'Pupil's Voice', which is where we get children to have their say on the school council; and they also have the chance to present to the governors and outside bodies like community councils. Presenting to the Vale Council is the biggest step they've taken."

Teacher Caroline Fouracre is the school's driving force behind the Comenius Project, and she spoke to The GEM about the benefits and successes that come with signing up.

She said: "Last year ,we were one of only eight schools in Wales to gain funding for our own Comenius Assistant to come over from Spain. It's good for the pupils to learn the language.

"One of the main things I'm regularly asked about our participation is 'why'? When kids know so little about their own culture, why teach them about foreign cultures? Well, that's wrong, because they also learn so much about their own culture while taking part.

"All children need to know that there is another world out there, that they can go and live and work in these countries. The world is smaller than they think."

Ms Fouracre also praised the pupils for their presentation skills, and said it showed how far they've come in such a short time.

She added: "We showed the Vale Council a video of some of our pupils speaking fluent Spanish, which for 10 and 11-year-olds is pretty impressive after only six months' coaching!

"I hope the Vale Council sees how important this is – it's all beneficial for the pupils."

Funding is handled by the British Council and all schools must go through a strict application process where they forge their own partnerships with schools in different EU countries.

The fact that the school got on to the scheme is a success according to their headteacher.

"This shows what can be done by such a small school like ours," she added.

St Nicholas, had recently come through an inspection with flying colours:

"You see such great things when you are speaking to pupils in other countries. If you just stay in Wales, you can become a little isolated."

Llandow circuit to raise funds for foundation

A CHARITY track day at Llandow motor circuit near Cowbridge on Wednesday, May 16, expects to raise over £1,200 plus Gift Aid for both the local Ed Evans Foundation and for Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental welfare society.

The event provides an opportunity for drivers to experience speed in their own cars in a safe but interesting environment. Spectators will be welcome and free.

Local clients of Combat Stress are invited to take passenger rides in a wide range of cars, which include Ford Escort, Mazda MX5, BMW M3 and Porsche 911.

The organiser Christopher Darwin from Devon said: "We have been running fundraising events at motor circuits for several years; this will be our sixth event at Llandow and we hope to bring the total raised to £15,000.

"We have been well-supported by the circuit management and are looking forward to another enjoyable day."

The Ed Evans Foundation was established in 2006 and has already raised over £130,000 for Cancer Research Wales and other charities. See www.edevansfoundation.co.uk

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Wales YFC launches its 'next generation' project

The Wales YFC members from Glamorgan and Clwyd enjoy their trip to north Wales.

MEMBERS of Wales YFC representing the Glamorgan and Clwyd YFC federations recently visited the north Wales Buffalo Farm and Reaseheath College as part of a new Wales YFC project supported by the Rural Youth Trust.

The 'Next Generation' project aims to establish junior rural affairs committees within YFC county federations in the hope that these members will go on to represent their federations on the Wales YFC rural affairs committees in later life, and to represent Wales YFC at external meetings and activities.

The project also aims to provide the junior members with opportunities to learn through experience and practical interaction within the agricultural industry.

At the north Wales Buffalo Farm, 11 members learnt about buffalo farming and how the business started, as well as learning how the business has adapted over the years, changing from producing milk to meat, the marketing of the product, the on-farm butchery and the plans for the future.

Following the visit to the Buffalo Farm, members travelled on to Reaseheath College for an overnight stay and taster sessions of the different courses available to study at the college, including agriculture, countryside, engineering, animal management and the routes members can take to achieve a qualification.

Wales YFC Rural Affairs Committee chairman, Marc Jones, said: "This project is all about enthusing the junior members of Wales YFC about rural affairs. I hope to see many members involved in the project representing Wales YFC at various events and meetings in years to come."

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

May Day walk

THE Llancarfan Society May Day Walk (May 7) is a two-mile stroll to the most southerly point in Wales.

Nature has softened and reclaimed this former landscape of limestone quarries, protected from the sea by cliffs with fine views across the Severn. Wild life should abound. Children and well behaved dogs are welcome. There is a short cut back if the weather is unfortunate!

Meet at the rail car park serving Cardiff International Airport at Rhoose at 10.30am for an 11am start.

AGM date

Llancarfan and District Community Association's AGM will held at the community hall on Wednesday, May 9, at 7.30pm. All are welcome and there will be a free glass of wine on entry.

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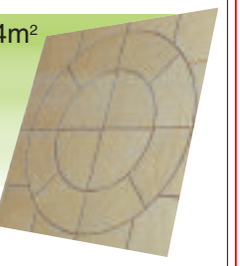

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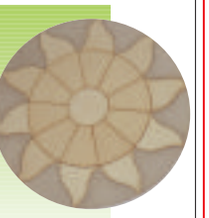

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Residents call for action on traffic through village

RESIDENTS in East Aberthaw are asking for action to be taken to improve the safety of the road through the village.

Iain McCarthy, of the East Aberthaw Residents' Association, told The GEM that the association had been approached by local mothers, and they had now taken the matter up with both their local MP and local councillor.

He told The GEM that access to the village playground or around the village has become too hazardous even for parents.

Sarah Coleman, mother of a new baby and a toddler, said: "The traffic through Aberthaw can be horrendous. Every time we walk out of our gate we take our lives in our hands, especially with a push chair and a toddler.

"The problem is that the road is so narrow here. We've had three speed related deaths here in recent years, so walking with little ones along this road would be madness"

Mr McCarthy says that elderly residents are also becoming housebound because it is too dangerous to walk on the road.

Mrs Brenda Frost pointed out: "Me and my husband have to depend on our grown-up children to come and take us out. We wouldn't dare to try to walk to the bus stop, although its only 100 yards away."

The residents say that Rhoose has increased fourfold in size in the last 30 years, leading to a huge increase in the volume of traffic through Aberthaw.

Mr McCarthy said that East Aberthaw residents have been asking the Vale Council to improve pedestrian safety in the village, but as yet no satisfactory solution has been proposed.

Vale MP Alun Cairns commented: "I support the residents of East Aberthaw as they work with the council to ensure that traffic is slowed down as it drives through the village.

"Pedestrian safety is a priority and I welcome the council's feasibility study. I will be urging them to act upon the findings as soon as possible."

He added: "I was pleased that Gordon Kemp recognised the issue, and has been working with local residents for some time.

"The feasibility study should throw up several options, which could include traffic calming, a reduced speed limit or other alternatives.

ABOVE: East Aberthaw residents want action taken to reduce the speed of traffic through the village.

"We also need to work together to gain funding from the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme, to ensure that the recommendations can be delivered."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "*Unfortunately, there is insufficient carriageway width to construct a safe footway at this location and this has been explained to the residents on a number of occasions over recent years.*

"The council has, however, undertaken investigations in response to the concerns raised by the residents at East Aberthaw in respect of vehicle speeds through the village.

"Council members and officers have met residents and the following actions have been progressed: Traffic speed/volume survey undertaken; personal injury collision records investigated; adopted highway limits determined; road geometry checked; gateway feature designed; summary of existing traffic calming features identified; possible future traffic calming features identified."

She continued: *"Recently, the following Traffic Regulation Orders have been confirmed and speed restrictions will be introduced shortly:*

"This will be a 40 mph speed restriction on the approach from the north and from the south.

"In addition, improved edge of carriageway markings have been laid and mobile driver feedback signs have been located at East Aberthaw for three months.

"Also, a Police speed enforcement exercise has been undertaken.

"The speed data obtained from the mobile driver feedback signs will now be assessed and the success of the aforementioned features will be reviewed over the next couple of months.

"A decision will then be taken as to whether or not other physical traffic calming features such as road humps or cushions are required."

PHIL IRWIN

Lysworney gets set for a party, to celebrate Edith's 100th birthday!

A special party is planned in the village of Llysworney this weekend as Edith Maud Williams celebrates her 100th birthday!

Edith, of Little Moor Farm, and better known in the village as 'Nan Booth', is 100 on May 7, but her family will mark the notable milestone with friends and family the day before.

Her granddaughter, Sara Booth told The GEM: "She has lived with me, my husband Paul and our four children Harriet, Florence, Millie and Amos in Llysworney for the past 12 years.

"Nan was brought up in the farming community of the Vale and moved to Llysworney in the year 2000 – coincidentally, into the farmhouse previously owned by HR Edwards, whom she had known as a very young farmer.

"Nan also knew Dr Peter Thomas when he first qualified as a doctor at the age of 25 and started practising medicine in Llantwit Major. Nan and Peter would often reminisce over Welsh cakes and tea, and occasionally something stronger.

Edith Maud Williams, who is known in Llysworney as 'Nan Booth'.

"She notoriously received an unofficial ASBO when she pulled the plug – literally – on the village summer barbecue a few years ago.

"She'd had enough loud music and wanted to go to sleep. Typical of a feisty lady! Until recently, Nan was actively gardening, housekeeping and helping with childcare. Now, in her centenary year, she leads a slightly more relaxed life."

Edith was born in St Athan just one month after the Titanic sank and puts her longevity down to her strong Christian faith and a 'cup half full' view of life. She is a mother of two, grandmother of four and great grandmother of eleven.

Sara added: "She has been a true inspiration to the family, proving that with hard work you can achieve success in life."

A total of 200 people will attend her birthday celebration.

WALKING IN IOLO's STEPS

WALK in the footsteps of Iolo Morgannwg on May 12 with Transition Cowbridge where you can experience Old Hall Gardens and his famous shop, before moving on towards Aberthin and Stalling Down, the breathtaking site of his first Gorsedd meeting.

Refreshments in the Bush Inn in St Hilary, then return via Llanblethian to finish at The Bear, Cowbridge – Iolo's watering hole – to share in his satirical poetry.

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ROADSHOW PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES 8TH THROUGH 12TH MAY!

By Jason Williams
STAFF WRITER

"It's a modern day goldrush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, Roadshow Representative.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your cleaning early this year. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens Tuesday 8th May in Bridgend and is looking for antiques and collectables. Remember those Dinky cars you played with as a kid? What about those old Hornby train sets? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW HAS BEEN TOURING THE WORLD SINCE 2001. THIS YEAR ALONE, WE WILL VISIT 3,000 CITIES AND OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL CASH IN!

forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

Roadshow representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewellery, coins, antiques and collectables, just about anything can be sold at the Roadshow. This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, we will see hundreds of people during the five day event. We will see a few unusual items, but mostly we will see a lot of old coins, gold jewellery, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Colchester, a retired dentist walked in with over 2 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual, wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over £5,000 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 2 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Archie, more than you might think have some sort of gold they can cash in. Davis says, "The Roadshow receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event."

Above—Roadshow Specialist analyzes a gold ring brought in by a local resident in Edinburgh.

Broken jewellery, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices. Archie Davis commented, "Other top categories at the Roadshow would have to be silver crowns and other coins, pocket watches and my personal favourite, old toys." Davis told me a story about a visitor at a recent Roadshow in Newbury. "An elderly gentleman walked into the show and asked if we were interested in old toys. He explained that he had kept all of the toys from his childhood and that they were outside in his car. I walked outside, and to my surprise his car was full of the coolest old toys I had ever seen: big old metals trucks, pedal cars, train sets, cast iron toys, he had it all. At the end of that day, he ended up walking away with over £3,000 for his old toys. His last comment to me was, 'Well, I guess it's time to let 'em go.'"

Whether you have 2 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a car full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the Roadshow this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW

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Charities benefit from MP's run

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns was among the field of more than 30,000 in the London Marathon, which he completed in 4 hours and 3 minutes – to raise funds for two local charities based in the Vale – Atal y Fro (formerly known as Women's Aid) and MIND in the Vale.

He was making his debut along with six other MPs on the 26.2 mile course.

"It was an unforgettable experience and I enjoyed every minute.

"It was a fantastic day and great to see so many people out on the streets showing their support for the thousands of people who were running to raise money for so many different and important causes," he said.

Mr Cairns still welcomes sponsorship for his efforts to support Atal y Fro and MIND in the Vale.

To respond to his appeal, please log onto www.virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairnsmp.

Donations can also be taken to, and sponsorship forms completed, at the constituency office, 29 High Street, Barry.

ABOVE: Vale MP Alun Cairns with his medal

CCTV helps in Vale arrests

CCTV operators at the Vale of Glamorgan Council contacted police on 18 occasions during the week ending April 29.

One person was arrested on Holton Road, Barry, on April 24 for breaching a restraining order and another person was arrested on suspicion of burglary at Park Crescent on April 25.

A person was also arrested on suspicion of theft on Holton Road, Barry, on April 27, while a fourth person was arrested on Barry Island on April 29 on suspicion of multiple vehicle offences.

On Saturday, a missing person was found on Holton Road in Barry, thanks to CCTV operators, and another person received an ASBO on Broad Street, Barry, on April 23.

All crimes are alleged at the time of incident.

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, 6pm, May 8 at Palmerston Community and Learning Centre.

ILLTYD PACT, 7pm on May 16 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

DYFAN and GIBBONSDOWN joint PACT, 2.30pm-4.30pm on May 12 at Winston Road, Barry. Look out for TREV, The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle.

RHOOSE police surgery, May 9 at St Peter's Church at 112am.

WENVOE coffee and chat, May 10, a the Beech Tree Inn, Wenvoe at 11am.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, May 15 at Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT, May 14 in St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, May 17 in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

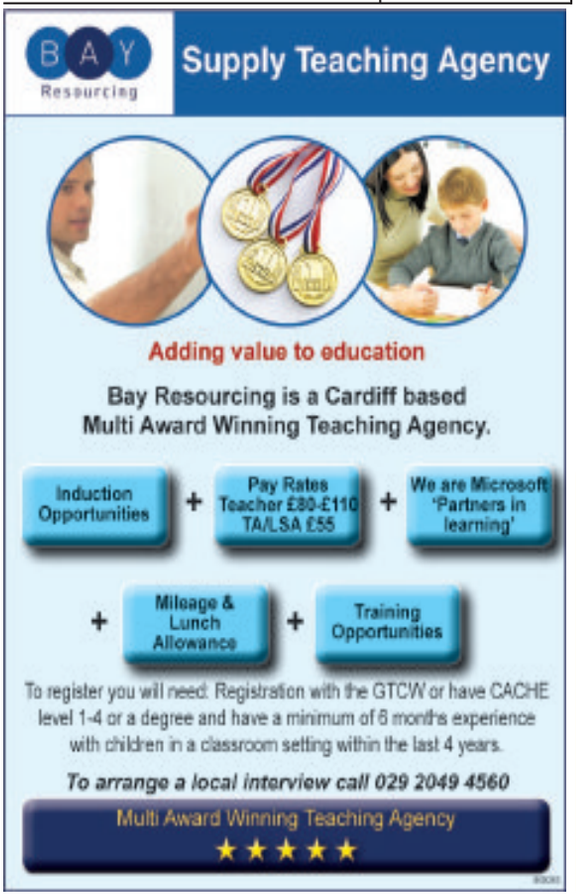
LLANDOUGH PACT, May 28 in Llandough War Memorial Hall at 7pm.

SPECIAL MONEY SKILLS SESSION

RECENTLY, bank employees joined forces with the ValePlus charity, which provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for adults with a learning disability, to deliver a Barclays money skills session.

It was part of a national drive to help one million people acquire financial skills.

Young people tackled topics, such as opening a 'bank and spending' account, using an ATM, budgeting, saving and spending. They also received practical guidance on how to keep their money safe.



JOSEF'S SPECIAL TALENT WOWS THE SONG JUDGES

Josef's got talent!

ASHGROVE Special School, Penarth, was the latest chosen to take part in a national competition to find the next Susan Boyle – and 12-year-old Josef Morley was the winner who goes through to the finals of 'Britain's Got Special Talent'!

Josef, who sang the song 'Still Alive' from the game Portal, stunned the judges with his talent and he was over the moon to become the winner.

Alison Wilde, a teacher at the school, said: "His parents will be so happy".

The south Wales charity, 'Follow Your Dreams', has taken its road show nationwide to find a star among youngsters with learning disabilities, and the winner will get the opportunity to record at Rockfield Studios, Monmouth, where Queen recorded *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Alf unearths 'Allotment' poem

SORTING through my cuttings recently, I came across the following little poem, '*The Allotment*' which I acquired in the 1950s.

I was serving as a special constable, at Harbour Road police station (close to the Ship Hotel, Barry) which was the station that I was attached to.

Now and then, a small booklet on police matters came my way and in one of them was '*The Allotment*.' I thought that it was well written and was permitted to copy it for myself.

When I have been invited to talk at a meeting, I have often included it and always had a good response.

Having been a gardener myself, I can appreciate the sentiments expressed in this little poem.

THE ALLOTMENT

We early in the Bible learned
About the curse that Adam earned
Because of agitators
But in these latter days somehow
The curse is multiplied, and now
By sweat of body, brain and brow
We've got to earn our 'taters'.

My garden measures, so they say
About twelve perches, mostly clay
And as I labour there each day
As quiet as a Quaker,
I turn my head around and see
How much more digging there may be
And that allotment seems to me
More like a blessed acre!
Since I began to till this ground
I've used more language, deep, profound
Than any collier underground.
"You know how colliers swear".
I fear I've lost all hope of heaven
But still, one consolation given
If to the other place I'm driven
There'll be no garden there!
Hope's ray is o'er my path way past,
I've finished digging it at last,
And soon I'll happier be.
The spade and fork away I'll fling
And in my armchair, like a king
I'll rest my aching back and sing
This new doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
I've finished for a month or so;
Planted the spuds and done my best
Now let him worry with the rest.

ALFRED MILLS, BARRY
(*The writer, aged 100, is a long standing GEM contributor*).

MP welcomes 'royal award'

RENISHAW, the global engineering technologies company which bought the former Bosch site, has received a Queen's Award for Enterprise 2012, for its ultra-high accuracy measurement system.

It was the company's 15th Queen's Award since its formation in 1973, and the news was welcomed by Vale MP, Alun Cairns, who said: "I'm delighted that Renishaw have achieved success, and once again been recognised for their innovation, receiving the accolade of the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2012."

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Vale voters head for the local polls

TIM CHAPMAN REPORTS

TODAY, Thursday, May 3, voters in the Vale of Glamorgan are heading for the polls to decide which local candidates should represent them – at a time when council budgets are arguably under greater pressure than at any time for 40 years.

It means that whichever majority political grouping results – whether a single party or a coalition of parties – difficult decisions on funding and services will have to be made.

So what have been the main two areas of concern raised by local voters on the doorstep and in the street?

Gordon Kemp, the Leader of the Vale Council said enviromental concerns and the LDP had been topics high on the Vale election agenda.

"Generally, it is small environmental issues which have been raised on the doorstep, but it is these which are important to the community.

"Residents have indicated that they are happy with the co-mingled recycling and are happy with our already announced intention to introduce strong enforcement measures in respect of dog fouling and littering."

Coun Kemp said the LDP had been raised, pointing out that the process of delivering it started during the days of the Labour-Plaid coalition in 2007.

He explained: "There has been a six-week consultation on the draft plan, and the views of those who responded will be considered before the final plan is ready for consultation in 12 months' time.

"Contrary to the claims made by the Labour Party, it cannot be scrapped."

Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale's Labour group, which claims it *can* scrap the Local Development Plan, explained: "The main area of concern is the LDP, which is flawed, unsustainable and very contentious.

"If Labour is elected to run the council, we will scrap it and go back to the drawing board and start afresh.

"Other issues have also been experienced. The appalling state of the roads, with pot-holes everywhere is probably the most important issue, but this is just one of a number of matters that have been raised."

Plaid Cymru said road problems and a regeneration report had been uppermost for people in Barry.

Nic Hodges, the local Plaid leader, said: "One issue has been the continuing delay in the Tories reintroducing parking wardens into the Vale. The resulting traffic chaos is bad for residents, tourists and business. The excuse of using Cardiff's experiences as a pilot is a false one and was used to try to cover their delays.

"The failure of the Tories to redevelop Barry Town centre has been both shocking and a scandal."

Coun Hodges said that an excellent consultants' report had been neglected by the Conservatiives which would have rejuvenated Holton Road.

"It took Plaid Cymru to bring this report to light and force the Tory cabinet to discuss it openly, after sitting on it for over two years."

INDEPENDENTS

This year, there are 144 people standing in 23 Vale wards, with more independent candidates than ever before – a total of 14.

Gwyn John, of Llantwit Major First Independents, said residents were dissatisfied with the way the Conservative-run council had treated Llantwit.

"They have failed to fund a new comprehensive school in Llantwit Major, and after building schools in Cowbridge and Penarth, there is no money left to build in Llantwit.

"People are furious at the lack of funding for the town, the third largest in the Vale after Barry and Penarth, and angry at the closure of the cash office."

A number of independent candidates are standing in Barry, supported by the FocusBARRY group.

Independent candidate, **Dennis Harkus**, said: "The two main topics are too many new houses with no infrastructure to support them and the culture of the Vale Council.

"Many Barry and Rhoose people feel the council policy to guide thousands of houses to Barry and neighbouring communities without regard to the highway infrastructure is totally unacceptable.

"People's perception is of a lack of openness and transparency in Vale Council business and a total failure, and unwillingness, to involve people in the decision-making process. It's our money and our community."

Candidates have also reported matters of concern such as local government transparency in decision making, 'value for money' in spending, disillusionment with politicians in general and fly-tipping.

Group AGM

THE annual general meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, May 14, at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

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Welsh Government to act over illegal fly grazing in Vale

THE Welsh Government has been urged to make sure that laws are in place to tackle the problem of 'fly grazing' – the dumping of horses on private land.

At a recent Question Time in the Senedd, the local regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, called on the First Minister to tackle 'fly grazing' and ensure that residents across the Vale do not see a repeat of the traumatic scenes witnessed throughout the winter months.

He said: "I am happy to hear that the First Minister recognises what I have been saying for some time, which is that a co-ordinated response is required to deal with the owners of these horses being left to graze illegally on private land.

"The animal welfare issues that have arisen out of this debacle have been extremely distressing for residents, as have the public safety concerns, with horses escaping on to public highways and even the runway at Cardiff Airport.

"Naturally, it will also be necessary to consider whether existing legislation has the teeth to deal effectively with the owners of these horses, who have been flagrantly flouting the law for far too long.

"Animal welfare laws must be sufficiently robust to tackle the issue and it is vital that we look closely at the current system of 'abandonment notices' as well as legislation concerning the fit and proper ownership of animals.

In his reply, the First Minister said: "In my area, there has been fly grazing in cemeteries. Horses have got into one cemetery not far from where I live and are still there, to the great distress of people who have loved ones buried there.

"It is well known who the owners of these horses are. We will work very closely with all local authorities to ensure that proper enforcement takes place.

"If there is a need to strengthen the law in this area, we will of course consider that as well."

Leekes defies recession!

LEEKES has announced that the last quarter has seen its best sales performance for more than three years, with sales up by over 10 per cent compared with the previous year.

This news coincided with the recent ONS announcement that the economy has slipped back into recession after GDP for the first quarter of 2012 fell by 0.2 per cent.

Peter Martin, Leekes Store Operations Director, said he believed that retail sales were a far stronger indication of economic strength than the headline GDP figures.

"Retail sales are always the first to suffer as the economy runs into difficulty and people tighten their purse strings. However, in a similar way, we are the first to see the beginning of sustained recovery as the economy strengthens and people start to spend.

"While last year continued to be challenging, sales in key home improvement lines, such as kitchens and bathrooms, remained healthy.

"Since December 2011, we have seen a terrific increase in sales across all areas, which we believe is led by a pent-up demand for goods that the public have been putting off purchasing for the last few years.

"Overall, the company is more than £3 million up in sales, compared to the same period last year, and we are seeing an acceleration in sales which we believe will continue throughout the rest of this year."

Local company's charity golf day

THE Vale and Bridgend branch of the NFU Mutual Insurance is organising a charity golf day in aid of the Alzheimer's Society ,at the Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl, on Friday, May 18.

Teams of four, at £175 per team, are invited to enter, although individual entries at £45 are also accepted.

The format for the day will be the best three stableford scores per hole to count, with excellent prizes for the best team and also the best individual score in both men's and ladies' sections.

In addition, there are high quality prizes for the winners of the longest drive and for being nearest the pin on the par-3 holes.

A two-course meal will also be available to all contestants, together with the opportunity of bidding in the silent auction for one of the many other star prizes.

Anyone interested in playing or making a donation to the Alzheimer's Society is asked to contact Mrs Pam Harris at the NFU Mutual Insurance on 01656 653111; or Tony McCarthy on 07813 902149. **TMcC**

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Out and About with The GEM

THE AVENGERS SET BENCHMARK FOR THE BLOCKBUSTER SEASON

SINCE the second wave of superhero hysteria on the big screen, Marvel Comics have proven to be the market leaders.

While Batman's second outing, *The Dark Knight*, is the biggest comic book movie of all time, the success of *Iron Man, Hulk, Thor* and *Captain America* on the big screen has far outweighed DC Comics' recent efforts with *Superman* and *Green Lantern.*

Avengers Assemble sees the above-mentioned heroes (played by Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans respectively) along with Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johannson) team up under the auspices of Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) when earth is threatened by Thor's evil brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston).

Will the Avengers be able to stop him,or will Loki and his army have the final say?

You could half argue that the individual films that showcase the members of the Avengers have been glorious, high-budget trailers for the group's first big screen team up.

Though the films have entertained and been hugely successful, they have contained plenty of nods and winks along the way; while *Iron Man 2* seemed to spend more time on the foundations of the group than on the story of that film.

So with expectations from fanboys and the public alike set to extremely high, does *Avengers Assemble* (prefer the title *The Avengers*? Me too) manage to match or even exceed them? The good news is that it most definitely does.

The individual parts add up to a satisfying whole that certainly sets the benchmark, not just for the likes of *Batman* and *Spiderman*, but for summer blockbusters as a whole.

The main worry was how the film was going to handle such a rich mix of characters, all with an avid fanbase, and all needing to be served by the machinations of the story.

Thankfully, under the auspices of Joss Whedon (also in the director's chair) and Zak Penn (who has experience with both *The Incredible Hulk* and *X-Men 2*) the characters come across vividly and richly defined – all having a part to play and none feeling marginalised by the needs of the story.

Whedon and Penn's story plays out as a typical comic book movie – evil attempting to take over the world with the aid of an army – but on this simplistic foundation intelligence and spectacle are laid in equal measure. The film balances incredibly well the notions of identity, morals of the supposed good guys and the importance of heroes in this cynical age with explosions, fight sequences and the expected action beats.

Whedon's skill as a director has always leaned more towards actors than delivering bang for your buck, but given such a large toy set to play with, he comes up with the goods, the film kicks off with a well constructed set-piece involving an escape and never really lets its foot off the pedal.

The middle act sags a touch only due to the needs of the story, all that action requiring some breathing space for story.

But Whedon marshals all the elements into a credible whole, and hopefully the success of this film will make him more than just the celebrated hero of the genre community – he can certainly achieve even more than is on show here.

The cast are all more than well versed in their characters so play very much as you would expect: Robert Downey Jr is witty and charismatic, Chris Evans noble as the man out of time, Chris Hemsworth stoic as the man out of place, while newcomer Mark Ruffalo nails the human element of the Hulk, and the likes of Scarlett Johannson, Jeremy Renner and Samuel L Jackson are all impressive in built-up roles.

Tom Hiddleston really hits the spot as the evil Loki, vying with Ruffalo as the finest turn on show. Hiddleston delivers a boo-hiss villain with added clout and backstory, and even if his alien army feels a touch faceless, the actor is still coldly chilling and a viable threat to our heroes.

While the future for the group will no doubt be built up by further individual outings for the heroes, hopefully the next installment of their team-up won't be too far away as *Avengers Assemble* is a fine first outing for this dream team and a thrilling adventure ride in its own right.

VERDICT: The fruits of Marvel Comics' films have come to fruition in the best possible way, as *Avengers Assemble* is a truly superb blockbuster.

With rich characters and an engaging storyline dynamic, Joss Whedon manages a fine balancing act that works extremely well and sets the benchmark for the summer – *Spiderman* and *Batman*, it's over to you! ***Highly recommended.***

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iron Man* (2008), *Thor* (2011), *Captain America* (2011)

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D720.

● **£2,000:** 186723.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £9,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 6 2 6 6 9 8 , 225745, 614791, 663103, 830554, 153201, 361445, 801911, 349979, 304645, 671135, 299754, 372941, 615862, 390254, 763056, 266821, 494616, 848414.

● **£5:** 7 3 5 9 2 5 , 713671, 222535, 862007, 473418, 907294, 216244, 396064, 192643, 834365, 786566, 405370, 706296, 522408, 611926, 725228, 802522, 454249, 658095, 114432, 513352, 883014, 731052, 904144, 147008, 718763, 536591, 408837, 151685, 214900, 311013, 337588, 608013, 827042, 711495, 751482, 501667, 724376, 178524, 601062, 561852, 522445, 717476, 269736, 203338, 542144, 679371, 948069, 310065, 431910, 105414, 700762, 328828, 441684, 163021, 616366, 991479, 529484, 929045, 401446, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

THERE will be a fashion show, by M&Co, in aid of Cancer Research UK on Thursday, May 17 in the Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Admission £5. There will also be a raffle.

Boots on for the Big Welsh Walk

ON May 5 and 6, keen walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts will be gathering along the Welsh coastline to take part in a weekend of walking events to mark Ramblers Cymru's Big Welsh Coastal Walk.

This mass participation event is to celebrate the launch of the Wales Coast Path – 870 miles of walking, enjoyment and access to the seaside for everyone to enjoy.

There will be events taking place along almost every stretch of the Welsh shore from short seaside ambles to exhilarating cliff top hikes, as well as the Welsh Government's official launch events in Cardiff; Aberystwyth and Flint.

Angela Charlton, director of Ramblers Cymru, said: "The launch of this Coast Path is a milestone for access to our countryside and coast and to celebrate it we're calling for everyone who can to appreciate the magnificent opportunities that this path will make available.

Ramblers' members across Wales will be involving their local communities in a variety of walks to suit everyone.

visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/wales to find details of coastal walks near you on the Big Welsh Walk map – don't forget to register your attendance with the walk leader. For more information on the official launch events please visit: www.walescoastpath.gov.uk.

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Out and About with The GEM

Spring fayre

THERE is a free children's fancy dress competition, with prizes for the best fancy dress and bargains for all the family at the annual spring fayre at St Paul's Church Hall, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, this Saturday (May 5), opening at 2pm.

Stalls include books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall and everything will be sold at St Paul's famous bargain prices.

Admission is 50p, children are free and there will be a big raffle with a first prize of £50 and many other prizes including drinks and grocery hampers.

Refreshments will be on sale and doors open at 2pm in St Paul's Church Hall.

Valeways walks

On Sunday, May 6, at 10.30am, a Nordic walking 'taster' session starts from the main car park at Porthkerry Park, Barry, led by Howell Isaac (Age Cymru).

Tabletop sale

THERE will be a tabletop sale at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday May 12 from 10am-12.30am. Good quality goods available, entry is free.

Care and repair service

PENSIONERS living in their own homes and finding tasks difficult, such as repairs and improvements, can have free advice from Care and Repair, which covers the Vale, on Tuesday, May 8, at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, 10am–12 noon. *Call 01446 732385.*

Walking festival

THE third annual Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival will take place on May 11-13 with three eight-mile walks, a 'Vale Ale Trail', Nordic walking tasters and the Welsh Walking Group.

For further information, go to the website www.valeways.org.uk or telephone the Valeways office, Monday to Wednesday on 01446 730707.

Kyle's Goal charity dinner

A CHARITY gala dinner and dance will be held on Friday, May 11, at the Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff (7pm).

The compere will be the BBC presenter Sian Lloyd, with dancing to Nigel Hart's Bogart Band and a disco.

Proceeds are in aid of Kyle's Goal, supporting The Charity Headway (the brain injury association).

For tickets for the event, telephone Michael Bishop on 02920 617788.

Penarth parade

AS part of activities planned for Carnival Day during Penarth Festival Week, a classic car and walking fancy dress parade will again have 'The Carnival' at its theme.

Classic cars and motorcycles, and a walking band, will accompany the entrants on Saturday, July 14.

Contact Penarth Town Council for further details.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D719.

- **£9,000:** No winner
- **£2,000:** Swansea, 853079.
- **£10:** *782576, 325002, 388009, 276565, 373229, 652376, 744947, 254227, 758673, 723172, 394103, 292818, 362513, 756484, 284471, 969948, 677100, 840287, 681600, 538347*
- **£5:** *352668, 509239, 251597, 409275, 174810, 830029, 818893, 853270, 834438, 142531, 623693, 442498, 432206, 571708, 168858, 704910, 271766, 280707, 840451, 369494, 385789, 204705, 765622, 530497, 310235, 817480, 606072, 532436, 638355, 448447, 424931, 862262, 195527, 363996, 360222, 357379, 424342, 987255, 316306, 901674, 608245, 515720, 650209, 449188, 884950, 821140, 110485, 309186, 858981, 713422, 233664, 355935, 890627, 890867, 678627, 675533, 182517, 787669, 525477, 270896.*

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.09.

Mini Olympics at the May Day fayre

THIS year's May Day fayre at the Cogan Recreation Centre, near Penarth Leisure Centre, looks set to be the best yet, with the youth Mini Olympics taking place.

A trained team of workers and volunteers will be helping youngsters raise money for Breast Cancer Care through sport.

All 11-18 year olds in Penarth and the Vale are invited along on the day, pay just £1 and join in this exciting event.

The fayre itself will have games, stalls, entertainment and tasty treats for all ages to enjoy, and admission remains free.

It will be open between 2pm and 5pm on Monday May 7.

The May Day fayre is being run as part of IgniteHope 2012, in partnership with several Penarth churches and other organisations.

IgniteHope is a biannual Bank Holiday weekend event, where many hundreds of young people from across south Wales, commit to helping, supporting and serving the communities in which they live, while having fun at the same time.

Rogation festival at Amelia Trust

A ROGATION festival is to be held at the Amelia Trust Farm on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13.

It is a fundraising event for the farm. On the Saturday, the festival will be open from 11am–5pm and on Sunday, 12 noon–4pm.

The weekend will include craft stalls, bouncy castle, competitions on the Saturday, a dog show on the Sunday, live music, food and refreshments.

Rogation Sunday is the fifth Sunday after Easter, and the custom for this day is for a procession to walk the boundaries, blessing the crops and the animals within.

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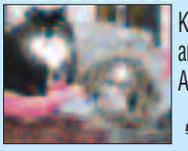
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7th May, Bank Holiday Monday
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Adults £5.50, Child/OAP's £4.50, family (3+3)
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Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th June - Margam Kite Festival. (Entry fee applies for Monday 4th).
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Sunday 3rd - Monday 4th June - Craft and Gift Fair in the Castle (Entry fee applies for Monday 4th).
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2 x family day tickets for Saturday, 30th June or Sunday 1st July.
2 x pair adult evening tickets for Friday 29th June or Sunday 1st July.

Correct entries will be drawn out of a hat – 1st and 2nd prize is the family ticket, 2 runners up of adult tickets.

No correspondence will be entered into. No cash alternatives available. Prizes are for entry to the event only, not travel or other costs.

All you need to do is to encircle the correct answer to the following question:

Which of these is a classic fairy tale . . .

(a) Casino Royale (b) Coronation Street (c) Cinderella

Complete attached coupon and post your entry to:
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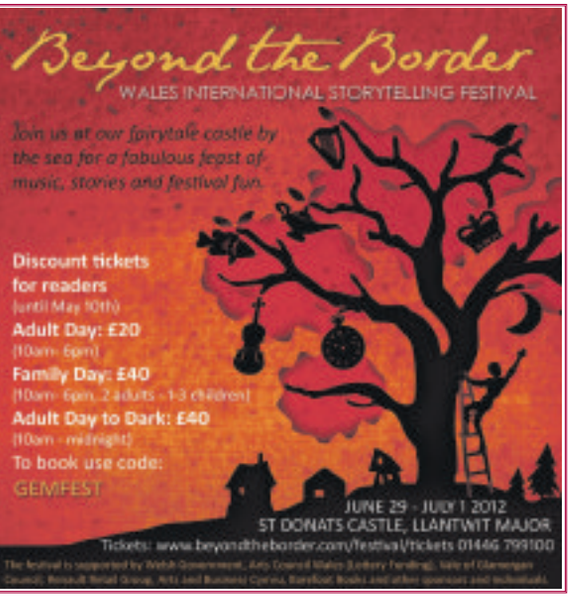
All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible. Closing date Friday, 18th May
The winning entry will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM Thursday, 24th May



Bryn Hafren produces best female 'speaking' team in UK

BRYN HAFREN School was placed a commendable third in the national final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, held at Glyndwr University, Wrexham on Saturday, April 28.

The team from Barry, who were entering for their first time in the senior section (14–17-year-olds) were competing against teams across the UK, from Scotland to the south of England.

The winning team were from Oathall Community College in Sussex and the runners up were from Holsworthy Community College in Devon.

"As these teams were all male, this effectively makes the Bryn Hafren team the best female team in the UK!" a spokeswoman said.

Representing Rotary RIBI Region 6, covering Wales and part of the midlands, the Bryn Hafren senior team, chaired by Aimee Delaney; their Speaker, Lissie Wallington and their Vote of Thanks given by Sarah Jayne Griffiths, gained well-deserved praise from the judges.

Taking an adaptation of the forthcoming 2012 Olympics as their chosen presentation topic: "*Play up, play away and play the fool: sports people are not positive role models for the young, and the Olympics not the epitome of sporting prowess and morality,*" the Bryn Hafren students showed extensive knowledge and understanding of their subject, adding humour and spontaneity.

Presenting the prizes, RIBI national president Ray Burman congratulated the Bryn Hafren team on their success, saying that this competition demanded all competitors to be articulate, knowledgeable and calm under pressure and that it had been a delight to listen to them at the RIBI Youth Speaks final.

President of Barry Rotary Club, Dave Ball, also paid tribute to the Bryn Hafren team and their teacher, Angela Burd, on an outstanding achievement.

Contact Barry Rotary Club membership chairman Peter Battle on 01446 710204 or visit www.ribi.org for further information about Rotary.

Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School senior team with RIBI president Ray Burman, Barry Rotary Club president and teacher Angela Burd; Sarah Jayne Griffiths (Vote of Thanks), Lissie Wallington (speaker) and Aimee Delaney (chairperson).

EISTEDDFOD QUIZ

A QUIZ to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow, will be held at St Francis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry, on Saturday, May 5 at 7pm.

Tickets £6, which includes light refreshment. Bring your own wine. This is an English language event. Contact Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784 for tickets.

SERVICE GAINING A FRIENDLY ADVANTAGE FOR THE OVER 50s

RIGHT: *Sandra Roberts, Friendly AdvantAGE Manager, and partners with the Vale AM.*

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, hosted the launch of a Vale Centre for Voluntary Services: (VCVS) project at the Senedd last week.

She congratulated the VCVS on its innovation, imagination and success in securing a Big Lottery Grant to open up opportunities for the over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale.

She said that several partners are on board with the Friendly AdvantAGE project, to help deliver different aspects of 'be-friending' for over 50s and their carers. She went on: "It was great to host this launch at the Senedd and to make the connections with my role as Equalities Minister.

"This is an exciting new project taking action to engage and empower over 50s in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

"It aims to open up opportunities for disabled people, carers and those who have not had access to the advantages of the digital world we live in.

"This is an important project with lessons to be learnt across Wales."

Rain stops just in time in the Vale!

THE heavy rain that hit the Vale, stopped just in time – as far as travellers were concerned.

The rain ceased on Tuesday afternoon; in the morning, the Vale Council had issued a warning, asking motorists to avoid travelling due to the large amount of water on the roads.

A particular problem was in Lavernock Road in Penarth, where the road was badly flooded, due to an overflow of the public surface water sewer.

A spokeswoman said: "The Vale Council is working to keep the road open and Welsh Water has been asked to make the sewer a priority."

Roads through Pendoylan and other Vale villages were subject to flooding, and Dyffryn Gardens was closed on Tuesday but was expected to be open on Wednesday.

The Vale of Glamorgan Railway Line was flooded between Bridgend and Cardiff Airport for a time in the morning.

A spokesman for Arriva Trains reported: "Services were disrupted and we had to lay on buses. However, services were running again by 11am."

FRACKING INQUIRY

THE public inquiry into the controversial plan to drill in Llandow to test for shale gas, will begin on May 22.

Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd has appealed against the Vale Council planning committee's decision to refuse permission to conduct exploratory drilling to determine the commercial potential for extracting natural gas.

The company has already completed similar test drilling in several sites in south Wales, and claims that drilling in the Vale is necessary to complete the geological picture.

However, campaigners have raised the spectre of a 'fracking' operation, where sand, water and chemicals are pumped into fissures in the shale beds, several hundred metres below ground, and are opposing any drilling.

The public inquiry will take place in the Board Room, Docks Office, Barry, starting at 10am on May 22, and is expected to last two days.

College praised

DEPUTY Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert AM, has visited Cardiff and Vale College to congratulate it on winning a prestigious award for overcoming deprivation.

The minister presented college staff and partners with a certificate to mark the success of CAVC's Entry to Vocational Skills (EVS) course.

It was the only Welsh college to win one of the Association of Colleges' Beacon Awards.

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In Business Update

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Dancers stun audience in charities show...

BLISS DANCERS held their fifth show in April 2012 at the Dinas Powys Parish Hall, raising £214 for Cancer Research UK and £224 for the RNLI.

The dance school managed to deliver an amazing performance with audience members commenting on their fantastic choreography and polished dance routines.

Bliss Dancers teach street, modern jazz and commercial dance within the Vale of Glamorgan for ages three to adult, providing a fun and relaxed place to learn and perform dance. The school has now announced that it will be opening two new classes in the Trinity Church Hall, Barry, and at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Dance teacher Laura said: "I am extremely proud of my dancers, they have improved so much since we opened three years ago. I'm very excited to be opening two new classes to expand the school.

"I am from and live in the Vale, so I wanted to create my dance school within the Vale area too."

Bliss Dancers welcomes any new members. For more information, call Laura on 07545 696760, or visit: www.bliss-dancers.com

Bliss Dancers

Bliss Dancers is a professional and affordable dance school.

We adopt a 'no attitude' class and ensure all students are happy in their environment.

We take part in regular shows and competitions.

Classes in Barry, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys and Penarth.

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Get your skates back on!

AT Bridgend Cycle Centre, we have been servicing the cycle community for the last 20 years.

We have recently expanded the shop and now sell Quad Skates to the Roller Derby and Recreational Skating community.

Our local skating groups, Cardiff Roller Collective (Bridgend), Rink Ratz Recreational Skating and the Bridgend Roller Disco Revival meet and train on a weekly basis. They are always looking for new people to join in this new skating phenomenon in south Wales.

Contact us for further details if you would like to join any of these groups. Absolute beginners are welcome; call 01656 766006.

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You will find videos of working demonstrations linked through You Tube, a link to our Facebook page where you can become one of our loyal followers, and even click on to our Ebay shop where you can pick up a Riverlea bargain.

Keep your finger on the pulse and click Riverlea on the website www.riverlea.co.uk – Serving Wales' farmers!

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

FRIENDLY, TALENTED APPROACH TO TATTOOING

PINS N NEEDLES Tattoo Studio has been trading for seven months, and we have had a lot of support from the local community.

We have two artists in the studio, James Harrison and Jamie Rees, who are friendly, approachable and very talented.

At Pins N Needles, we pride ourselves on our custom tattoo work offering great value for money; we do colour work, black and grey, and cover ups.

For more information or bookings, please call into the shop, call us on 01446 796158, or contact us on Facebook. (We are located above Il Vesuvio restaurant)

Say (Riverford) cheese for proper farmhouse taste!

OUR new Riverford cheese shop is now open, and we hope you'll be as pleased as we are about it!

The aim is to bring you a range of proper farmhouse cheeses all in one place, so you can explore the amazing variety on offer. They are all from small-scale organic producers, and come with bags of character and flavour.

Creamy, crumbly, oozy, blue...

Whether you fancy something lemony and soft like our High Weald Dairy sheep's milk cheese, or sharp and velvety like our Caws Cenarth Caerffili, we've something for everyone.

We'll also be adding more cheeses to the range as we discover them, so keep an eye out for new additions.

Something on the side?

The goodies don't stop there either. We've buttery organic Pimhill oatcakes, moreish chutneys like hot pear and ginger or ploughman's pickle, and refreshing organic grapes and apples so you can make the tastiest cheeseboard possible.

We hope you'll give it a try, and as ever, if you have any feedback, please let us know.

Happy seasonal eating! Contact Chris and Alison Moruzzi on their local office number, 01639 772846.

Future's new orangery roof system

A bespoke orangery room adds a spacious light-filled living space to your home all year round.

It could be used for your kitchen, your home, office, a family sitting room or a room for al fresco dining.

They are becoming more and more popular with their contemporary look adding that finishing touch to your home. It is a 'room for all seasons'.

Future Window Solutions has a new roof system which now allows us to pass on our amazing deals to our customers offering them better quality roof systems at down to earth prices.

A spokesman said: "Please contact one of our friendly team *free* on 0800 032 0921 for a free demonstration.

"Most of our work comes via recommendation because of our quality workmanship.

"We are a family run company understanding the needs for a happy home and know how important quality and assurance matters to our customers."

SOUTH WALES BUSINESSMAN TACKLES EVEREST FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY

by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

WAKING up in a small hut with no electricity to find that your only source of drinking water has frozen is not a situation that most of us would expect to be in come March.

Yet this is what faced south Wales businessman Tim Leeke after he agreed to become one of 12 hardy climbers who trekked up Everest to Base Camp to raise money for the NSPCC in Cardiff.

"It was at a family get together at Christmas that it was first mentioned," explained Tim in an interview with The GEM. "My cousin Emma was already in the second year of a two-year fundraising project for the NSPCC and I was happy to help.

"I knew three people there – my cousins Emma and Chris, and my friend Andy who is a Llanblethian boy.

"We all met up before so I could get to know people and they were a great group to do it with."

With a hardy bunch of explorers at his side, including Cardiff Blues chairman Peter Thomas and Welsh Rugby Union supremo David Pickering, Tim began his ascent of the world's largest mountain.

"What hit me first was the altitude – the lack of air, that is," he said. "It was really hard to get used to. You can't train for altitude until you're there. It affects everybody differently. I guess it's just kind of luck, how your body is made up.

"I was often breathless and I developed a cough too, due to swallowing dust. There was dust everywhere, especially when the yaks went past – they'd blow huge clouds up for you to walk through.

"I also had a bit of a dodgy stomach for a few days which was especially uncomfortable when walking. That caused me a bit of angst!"

Particularly at the beginning, Tim wasn't missing out on the fine weather we were experiencing in Wales.

Far from it, in fact; in the day at least.

"We were very lucky with the weather a lot of the way up. It was warm enough to wear shorts on the first few days.

"But it got very cold at night, and these 'tea houses' you stayed in weren't heated. It got so cold that some people's water carriers would freeze and they'd end up with big chunks of ice in their water the next day."

The group reach destination Base Camp.

The terrain was also constantly changing, and you could never rest on your laurels or you risked getting caught out by what was around the corner.

"We began by trekking on paths," he explained. "They were only two or three feet wide, and then it would change.

"You would be clambering over boulders for a few hours. Then there were some really narrow paths and then you would be trekking through forest. It kept you on your toes!"

They began to reach their destination after a few days' trekking, and Tim described his relief at finally seeing the end in sight.

"When we got towards Base Camp I just felt great relief and a real satisfaction for what I had achieved. I had got to the highest point I could have hoped to.

"All that's there is a stone marking that it was Base Camp, and further on there is a tented area for those climbers trying to reach the summit. There's nothing really to do or see. We were there for half an hour and then turned back to trek down to a settlement to acclimatise.

"To go further, you need to be a professional as you're going to be going through ice fields and the like, so you can't go any further than Base Camp without buying a permit for £20,000 or £30,000.

"You've also got to have the Sherpa guides with you because it's so treacherous. For these reasons I'd never consider going higher."

The group then descended back to Kathmandu by helicopter, as most had commitments to return to in south Wales. But Tim said that he had spent enough time on the mountain to take home plenty of memories to his family.

"It was an absolutely amazing experience and I would recommend it to anybody. It was really, really tough but has given me many great memories! We took hundreds of photos of our trip."

He also had a few tips for any would-be Vale explorers looking to follow in his footsteps.

"I'd say take your walking boots, proper walking boots! Make sure they fit properly.

"If they give you grief you've had it! I think it's quite amazing that the entire time we were trekking none of us had blisters!

"I'd also say little things like baby wipes and antibacterial hand gel. There's no running water the closer you get to Base Camp so it's always handy to have things like that with you."

But the main reason Tim and his group were tackling Everest was to benefit others.

He finished by explaining where the money raised would be heading.

"It's always a pleasure to help disadvantaged children. A lot of the money goes towards the NSPCC's work in Cardiff – the 'Building Brighter Futures' program and their Diane Engelhardt House in the city. We also had a lunch and charity auction before we went."

He also added that he wasn't looking at continuing his burgeoning climbing career any time soon.

"I've got a wife and two young children at home, so I was lucky to be able to get the two weeks I had. I'm already indebted to my wife for that!"

If you would like to donate to Tim or any of his companions to aid their cause, you can find donation pages at: www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TimLeeke (Tim), http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/leekeseverest (Emma and Chris) and http://www.justgiving.com/JonesytoEverest (Andy).

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

Counting the days to the Eisteddfod...

ON Thursday, April 26, we celebrated 100 days to go before the start of the National Eisteddfod.

In just over three months time, the eyes of Wales will be on the area with 150,000 visitors flocking to one of the world's greatest festivals.

The 100 days to go mark is an important milestone in the project, and to celebrate, Eisteddfod staff went out and about in the Vale to talk about the festival and to distribute information.

This time we were joined by Fireman Sam, who proved a great hit in both Llantwit Major and Cogan, Penarth, when he met local children.

First stop was the Cylch Meithrin at thre Western Vale Integrated Children Centre, where Fireman Sam enjoyed a warm welcome, with some of the children dressed in Fireman Sam jumpers.

It was a chance to talk to parents about some of the special offers available for visitors to the Eisteddfod, including the three days on the Maes on the price of two and the early bird discount ticket offer, while Sam was distributing Eisteddfod stickers.

Then it was off to Cogan Nursery School in Penarth, where the children have been working on a project about the Eisteddfod with their teacher Mr Thomas.

The work undertaken by the school on the history of the festival is fantastic, and with the school currently shortlisted for a Wales-wide heritage award, we very much hope that the work will be on display at the welcome pavilion in the Eisteddfod, so all our visitors can enjoy the wonderful project.

Community involvement is an important part of the Eisteddfod project. Many local people are members of the Eisteddfod choir, which will perform at the UK premiere of Karl Jenkins' latest work, *Bards of Wales*, with Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans on Saturday, August 4.

Having been rehearsing every week for many months, the concert on the Pavilion stage will be the pinnacle of this

community project.

Local children are also gearing up for 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', a choir of primary school age children from the Vale, who will perform in the opening concert with Only Men Aloud, and Only Boys Aloud – who are currently waiting to find out if they'll make it into the live shows on *Britain's Got Talent*.

If the boys, brought together for the opening concert at the 2010 Eisteddfod do make it into the finals, we'll be supporting them all the way, and looking forward to seeing them on stage on August 3.

For more information about the Eisteddfod, including tickets for all the concerts, go to www.eisteddfod.org.uk or ring the ticketline, 0845 4090 800.

Phrase of the week

For those of you following the phrase of the week, in conjunction with The GEM and Bro Radio, this week's phrase is a must for anyone thinking of voting in this week's local elections – or wanting to show their support for Only Boys Aloud – ***Rwy'n cefnogi****... (Rooeen kev-nogg-ee...) which means 'I support...'*

DDYDD Iau, Ebrill 26, roeddem yn dathlu 100 diwrnod i fynd cyn cychwyn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Ymhen ychydig dros dri mis, bydd llygaid Cymru gyfan ar y Fro, gyda 150,000 o ymwelwyr yn heidio i un o wyliau mawr y byd.

Mae 100 diwrnod i fynd yn garreg filltir bwysig yn y prosiect, ac i ddathlu, aeth staff yr Eisteddfod allan am y diwrnod o amgylch y Fro, i siarad am y Brifwyl ac i rannu gwybodaeth. Y tro 'ma, roedd gennym ni gwmni go arbennig – Sam Tân – a gafodd groeso mawr yn Llanilltud Fawr ac yn Cogan, Penarth, pan fu'n cyfarfod plant lleol.

Cawsom fynd i Gylch Meithrin Llanilltud Fawr i gychwyn, lle cafodd Sam dipyn o groeso – gyda rhai plant yn gwisgo siwmperi Sam Tân yn arbennig i'w groesawu. Cyfle i gael sgwrs gyda'r rhieni a sôn am rai o'r cynigion arbennig ar gyfer ymwelwyr i'r Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tridiau ar y Maes and bris deuddydd a'r prisiau gostyngol ar docynnau sy'n cael eu prynu ymlaen llaw, tra roedd Sam wrthi'n brysur yn dosbarthu sticeri.

Yna, ymlaen i Ysgol Feithrin Cogan ym Mhenarth, lle mae'r plant wedi bod yn gweithio ar brosiect am yr Eisteddfod gyda'u hathro Mr Thomas. Mae'r gwaith ar hanes yr Eisteddfod yn wych, ac mae'r ysgol ar y rhestr fer am wobr dreftadaeth dros Gymru ar hyn o bryd. A rydym yn falch o ddweud y bydd cyfle i bawb fwynhau'r gwaith hwn gan ein bod yn gobeithio'i arddangos yn y Ganolfan Groeso yn ystod yr wythnos, fel bod ein hymwelwyr i gyd yn cael cyfle i'w fwynhau.

Mae cynnwys y gymuned yn ein gwaith yn rhan hollbwysig o'r prosiect. Mae llawer o bobl leol yn aelodau o Gôr yr Eisteddfod, a fydd yn perfformio premier Prydeinig gwaith diweddaraf Karl Jenkins, Beirdd Cymru, gyda Dennis O'Neill a Rebecca Evans nos Sadwrn, Awst 4. Wedi ymarfer am fisoedd lawer,y cyngerdd ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn fydd pinacl y prosiect hwn.

Mae plant lleol hefyd yn edrych ymlaen i fod yn rhan o 'Only Vale Kids Aloud', côr o blant oed cynradd o Fro Morgannwg, a fydd yn perfformio yn y cyngerdd agoriadol gydag Only Men Aloud, ac Only Boys Aloud – sy'n disgwyl i gael gwybod os y byddan nhw'n ymddangos ar sioeau byw y rhaglen Britain's Got Talent ar hyn o bryd. Os y bydd y bechgyn, a ddaeth ynghyd drwy broseict arbennig ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod 2010, yn cyrraedd y rownd derfynol, fe fyddan ni'n eu cefnogi nhw tan y diwedd, ac yn edrych ymlaen i'w gweld nhw ar lwyfan yr Eisteddfod nos Wener, Awst 3.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am yr Eisteddfod, gan gynnwys tocynnau i'r cyngherddau, ewch i www.eisteddfod.org.uk neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau, 0845 4090 800.

SIONED EDWARDS

VALE RAMBLERS TRY OUT BIRD SPOTTING

A TOTAL of 13 members of the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers enjoyed a walk from the RSPB Centre at Nash on the Newport Wetlands, led by David Field.

Determined to do some bird spotting we began with a robin! There was great excitement as a fox was sighted hurrying through a field. A very fine specimen.

The walk continued along a level and well-maintained path to the foreshore before turning west. Vigorous debate ensued when two herons were seen and some members were sure the second one was not real. The bird in question settled the argument, however, when it flapped away. Conditions were perfect for walking; relatively mild and with no wind while the overnight freeze had turned the ground into a pleasantly firm terrain for most of the way. Lapwings, curlews, buzzards, a kestrel and oystercatchers were soon added to the list of birds spotted as the group continued to Goldcliff Church where, to their surprise, four members of an Italian family are interred.

It must be a healthy area, as many of the stones recorded those of an advanced age!

The group then stopped at a hide near the pond and among the mallards were coots, tufted and gadwall ducks. All the days sightings were added to the RSPB Centre list when the group stopped for refreshment there.

This walk is highly recommended, as high level walking at this time of year can be a bit dubious. The RSPB Centre is excellent and well worth a visit. Following the walk, the group retired to a nearby pub for refreshment.

New members are always welcome. We're a friendly crew and meet each Sunday for walks in the local area and beyond.

If you would like to join, see the website for details www.valeofglamorganramblers.com

MC

Difficulty Hearing?

Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is an Independent hearing aid practice that has been established in Penarth for over 8 years.

The Centre has access to the very best hearing aids on the market and due to the standards and dedication of the practice it has received recognition by becoming a 5 Star Phonak Approved Centre and the first hearing practice in the UK to become a Widex Approved Centre.

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BUNGALOWS

GLYNBRIDGE CLOSE, BARRY
off Port Road
Detached bungalow, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, separate wc, family bathroom. In need of modernisation.
£159,950

NEW

SPIRES WALK, BARRY
Spacious detached bungalow, maintenance free, 23ft living room, 3 bedrooms (master ensuite), modern family bathroom, double garage/driveway, enclosed private rear garden. Immaculate presentation. Viewing highly recommended.
£199,950

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Ideal for someone working from home. Versatile living. Extended detached dorma bungalow, Living room, kitchen/breakfast. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms also separate annexe to rear comprising bedroom, shower room, kitchen/sitting area.
£285,000

ECKLEY ROAD, SULLY
Detached bungalow, spacious living room, 2 bedrooms, low maintenance rear garden. 2 conservatories, integral garage, no chain. In need of modernisation.
£209,950

ST JOHNS PLACE, RHOOSE
2/3 bedrooms, detached bungalow. Living room, bedroom with ensuite shower, conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. Well presented throughout.
£224,950

NEW PRICE

HEOL Y GAER, THE KNAP
Dorma bungalow. Show home presented. Sea views from first floor. Ground floor: 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2011 fitted kitchen, family bathroom. To the first floor: Master bedroom and bathroom, detached garage/driveway.
£329,950

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
Stunning views over Vale. Dorma detached bungalow. To the ground floor: Living, dining room, bathroom and bedroom. To the first floor: 2 bedrooms, ensuite and dressing room. Garage/parking.
£329,950

NEW PRICE

THE NURSERIES, RHOOSE
Detached bungalow with private access. Indoor heated pool. 3 bedrooms, formerly 4, ensuite and utility, kitchen/dining area. Low maintenance gardens. Detached double garage. No chain.
£369,995

SOUTHBOURNE COURT, PLYMOUTH ROAD, BARRY
Approx 20 years old. Modern semi-detached dorma bungalow, fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, 2 double bedrooms, uPVC double glazed, gas central heating. Double driveway. Low maintenance garden.
£119,950

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Extended traditional semi detached, bay fronted bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, sun lounge, level enclosed garden. Driveway to front.
£209,950

INVESTMENT

COMMERCIAL ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms, mid terraced, lounge/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, paved rear garden. No chain.
£79,950

NEW

MORGAN STREET, BARRY
Two bedroom, mid terraced property. Lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, paved rear garden. No chain.
£87,500

NEW PRICE

MOREL STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Well presented. Two reception rooms, exended kitchen, uPVC Double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden, lane access, town centre location.
£97,995

GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Modern mid terraced. Living room. Modern fitted kitchen. Two double bedrooms. Family bathroom. Driveway to front. Enclosed rear decked garden. uPVC DG & Gas CH nia combi.
£99,950

RICHARD STREET, BARRY
Three bedroomed, mid terraced traditional. Through living room, enclosed low maintenance garden. Offered with no chain. uPVC DG. Gas CH. Amidst shops, schools.
£104,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Mid terrace. Offered with no chain. Through living/dining room, First floor bathroom. Enclosed garden. Lane access.
£109,000

NEW

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
Bay fronted, mid terraced, through living room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom. Three bedrooms. No chain.
£114,950

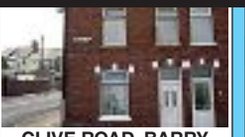
NEW

EVANS STREET, BARRY
Traditional mid terraced, well presented, through living/dining room, ground floor bathroom, three double bedrooms, level enclosed garden. Ideal first time buy.
£114,950

NEW PRICE

HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
Two storey, end of terraced traditional. ideal investment. Split into 2 flats with separate utilities and fire regs. Having an income of approx £11,800 per annum. Ground floor: Living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom. 1st floor: living room, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom to 2nd floor: Further room.
£114,950

WENVOE TERRACE, BARRY
Three double bedrooms. Constructed in 1891. End of terrace. Views over Bristol Channel. living/dining room, downstairs bathroom. Walking distance to shops and train.
£124,950



CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
End of terrace traditional. Gas central heating, living room, 3 bedrooms, loft room with velux suitable for hobbies. 2011 replacement bathroom. Ground floor sea views across waterfront. Garage to rear.
£125,995

NEW

CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
Well presented. Modern 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Enclosed private garden. 2 designated parking places. Cul de sac position.
£132,950

APARTMENTS

NEW

VERE STREET, BARRY
Ground floor apartment. Two bedrooms, amidst shops. Walking distance to train. Living room, fitted kitchen, level rear garden with lane access. Ideal first time buyer.
£64,950

SEMI DETACHED/END OF LINK/ MID TERRACED

HOWARD COURT, BARRY
Two bedroomed first floor apartment in need of modernisation. Living room, gas centrl heating and uPVC double glazing.
£89,950

NEW PRICE

PYRA COURT, BARRY
First floor apartment. Communal door entry system. newly fitted kitchen, living room with balcony, two bedrooms, shower room, uPVC double glazing, enclosed balcony. Parking in block.
£87,950

GLADSTONE COURT, BARRY
Maintenance free living. First floor apartment. living room with Juliette balcony. Two bedrooms, uPVC DG, gas CH via combi. Family bathroom, refurbished throughout. Modern fitted kitchen.
£109,950

SEALAWNS, BARRY
Ground floor apartment. Ideal for the less mobile. Living room with views towards the Knap. Two bedrooms, fitted kitchen and shower room. parking. Garage. No chain.
£144,950

NEW

COTSWOLD RISE, BARRY
Well presented throughout. 3 double bedrooms, corner position, end of link. Living room, conservatory, integral garage/driveway. Double glazed, gas central heating via combi. Spacious contemporary living. Ideal family home. No Chain.
£139,950

MARQUIS CLOSE, BARRY
End of link. Modern dwelling. Dining and living room, Fitted kitchen. 2010 replacement bathroom. Sea views from rear. Parking to front and rear. Viewing highly recommended.
£134,950

DETACHED

NEW

LONGMEADOW DRIVE, BARRY
Extended semi detached. Three bedrooms, separate dwelling to side comprising: Living room, double bedroom, kitchen, cloakroom, double garage approx 35ft.
£149,950

NEW

CLAUDE ROAD, BARRY
End of link modern. Three bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway/garage. Enclosed rear garden. No chain/vacant possession.
£129,950

THE GROVE, BARRY
Mid terraced, edwardian traditional. original features. 3 reception rooms, spacious kitchen, 3 bedrooms, enclosed garden. Hot tub to reman. Walks to beaches.
£234,950

MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
Three bedrooms, modern semi-detached. Built approx 2004. WC cloak, living room, kitchen/diner, 2 designated parking spaces. Ample street parking. offered with no chain. Viewing highly recommended.
£149,950

NEW

EITHINEN BER, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached, cul de sac position. wc cloakroom, living room, enclosed garden. Driveway/parking.
£159,950

NEW BUILD

SOUTH VIEW, RHOOSE
Luxury new build. Constructed February 2012. 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuites. Family bathroom, 3 reception rooms, gallery landing, sweeping driveway. Garage providing ample parking. Enclosed rear garden.
£445,000

BRON Y MOR, BARRY
Imposing detached. Built in 1950's. Bay fronted. 4 bedrooms, lake gardens, the Knap and sea views. living room, dining room, oak block flooring, kitchen with integrated appliances. Conservatory, utility room, integral garage/driveway. Enclosed well established garden.
£409,950

LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY
Modern detached, 5 bedrooms, spacious family home. 2 reception rooms, kitchen/diner, integrated appliances, offered with no chain. Driveway/garage. Views overlooking the Vale.
£314,950

TAF CLOSE, BARRY
Three bedroomed, modern detached. Living room with French doors. WC cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast, front, side and rear gardens. Garage/driveway. No chain.
£194,950

BROOKFIELD AVENUE, BARRY
3 bedroomed, modern detached, living and dining room, converted garage, Three bedrooms. Double driveway in width. Enclosed rear garden. No chain.
£174,950

PARC CLYWD, SPRINGFIELDS, BARRY
Detached dwelling constructed in 2000. Spacious living and dining room, kitchen with breakfast area. Granny/teenager flat providing sitting/bedroom and ensuite, utility room and garden store. Conservatory, 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), family bathroom. Enclosed established rear garden. Front garden with ample parking.
£254,950

HEOL PILIPALA, RHOOSE POINT
Modern detached built approx 8 years ago. 4 bedrooms, persimmon constructed, living room/dining, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, utility room, wc cloakroom. Garage/driveway.
£204,950

Public Notice

Chris Davies Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £118,000.Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property:
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OLD FRIENDS ARRIVE IN COWBRIDGE

The twinning event was a massive success.

OLD friendships were renewed and new ones formed last weekend when Cowbridge Town Twinning Association welcomed guests from Clisson, in the Loire-Atlantique region of France.

As part of a busy schedule, the French visitors lunched at Parc y Scarlets on Sunday, where an unexpected extra treat dropped by – in the shape of rugby legend Phil Bennett!

Heavy rain during the visit failed to dampen spirits, which were kept firmly up by several excellent meals, culminating in a grand farewell dinner and dance.

The association is 21 years old this year, and many members have built close relationships over the years with families in Clisson.

New members are always welcome (single as well as couples or families). For full details, see: www.cowbridge-twinning.co.uk, or email: andrew@cowbridge-twinning.co.uk.

CT

Amazing orchestra on the keyboard

THE April meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the Village Hall, where the president, Betty Thomas, read out thank you letters received from the guests invited to the Institute's 80th birthday party.

It would appear that everyone enjoyed the evening and many congratulations were received.

The guest speaker was Penny Weedon, who entitled her talk 'An Orchestra at my Fingertips'.

No-one had any real idea what this would entail and all were enthralled by the extremely engaging performance with which they were entertained.

The 'orchestra' in question was, in fact, a state of the art electronic keyboard and Penny took us on the fascinating story of her life through her almost total immersion in the world of music and musical instruments.

She started piano lessons at the age of four and, subsequently, had tuition on violin, cello, classical guitar and church organ.

There were many amusing anecdotes to accompany such a varied upbringing.

What was even more amazing, however, is the incredible versatility of the modern electronic keyboard. It really is an orchestra all in one instrument.

Penny was able to replicate such instruments as violin, recorder, guitar, church organ and even a choir.

This is just a taster of what she was able to do with her keyboard, as there is virtually no style that can't be replicated.

A truly memorable evening was brought to a close with the usual delicious supper.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8 and will include a discussion on this year's resolutions.

SD

Latest bridge results

THE latest results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club are as follows:

Monday April 23 (22 pairs): First – Marion and David Stephenson, 68.83 per cent; second – Mary Moore and Tony Disley, 67.10 per cent; third – Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 60.21 per cent; fourth – Margaret Price and Alan Grant, 57.29 per cent; fifth – John Henson and Dennis Smith, 55.56 per cent; sixth – Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 53.13 per cent.

Please note that the club will not open on Monday May 7 due to the Bank Holiday.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) – club night (14 pairs): First – Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts, 65.87 per cent; second – Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 58.73 per cent; third – Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes, 52.78 per cent; Joint fourth – Pat and Brian Swain, and Brenda Grove and Pam Higgs, 51.59 per cent; sixth – Pauline Lane and Dennis Barker, 50 per cent.

The Friday afternoon bridge event will take place on May 4 and 18.

Brian Swain

Open day

JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, joined the Amelia Trust Farm open day to welcome visitors and partners from local organisations and businesses who were learning more about the important work of the Trust.

Among those who attended were representatives from Asda and Tesco, the Parc Prison, Legal and General, The Prince's Trust and local farmers.

She congratulated the farm on its work, and especially welcomed the European-funded project supported by the Vale Volunteer Bureau, to meet the needs of young people supported by the Amelia Trust Farm.

Keen competition in round three of summer championship racing at Llandow Kart Club

ROUND three of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship coincided with the second qualifying event for the 2012 Dragon Challenge – now being shared with Dunkeswell – and saw 77 drivers in action across 10 classes.

The six-strong Bambino class all achieved the gold standard by posting laps under the target time of 60.9secs. For the record, the pace was generally set by Jakob Chamberlain, who posted the benchmark in three of the four outings, with Brooklyn Thomas edging the other by 0.02secs.

For the first time, the entire class enjoyed a collective presentation, with the MSA steward handing out the awards to a delighted sextet.

The decision to combine both Cadet classes produced a massive 28-kart grid and a lot of entertainment. Llandow members Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths shared Comer honours in the heats, but it was the visiting Tommy Foster who came out on top when it mattered most, leading the entire field across the line in the final to edge Griffiths by a tenth of a second, with Rawlings completing the podium.

The larger Honda category produced three different heat winners, with Ross Thomas, Hugo Holmes and Dunkeswell's Ryan Luscombe seeing the flag first, and it was DKRC who snatched the glory in the finale, as Luscombe again crossed the line in front.

Thomas and Holmes continued their strong weekends by finishing second and third respectively, with Stuart Ferguson, Ethan Ling and Joshua Martin also picking up silverware.

Honda Junior continued to feature four drivers, but a slightly altered entry saw rookie Patrick Hill on track in place of the absent Ainsley Shea-Godden. It was a familiar story up front, however, as Ben Stevens claimed a clean sweep of heats and final, while Tom Ford and Thomas Croydon swapped second and third places before taking those positions respectively in the final.

Ross Chell may not have appeared on the weekend's initial entry, but returned to disappoint those hoping to make the most of his absence.

The three heats proved closer than the finals, as Ryan Edwards, Joe Phillips and Joshua Webb all finished within a second of the reigning class champion, but Chell had things more his own way in the final, coming home 2.1secs clear of the chasing Yousuf Ashraf, while Phillips completed the top three, fending off Edwards by a couple of tenths at the line.

A stronger Minimax contingent, prompted by three visitors from DKRC, saw four drivers tacked on to the Junior Max grid. The more experienced Sam Stephens and Ryan Nutland set the pace, while lone LKC representative Ceran Sokhi battled over third in class with David Spiller, but Stephens had to overcome a third heat DNF before bouncing back to win the final.

Dunkeswell also claimed Junior Max honours as Sam Morgan won every time he ventured out. Rob Ellis provided his sternest opposition, despite not featuring in the heat three results, and eventually took the runners-up trophy ahead of Toby Allen to add to his maiden LKC championship win from March. Elliot Hagerty and Oliver O'Flaherty rounded out the class.

Simon Evans continued his winning ways in Senior Honda, but found renewed opposition in the shape of Nick Turley, who claimed top two finishes in each of the heats, including a win second time out.

Despite having to also chase Gareth Lewis home in that same outing, Evans duly claimed the remaining heats, and then produced the biggest winning margin of the afternoon as he romped to a seven-second success in the final.

Lewis claimed second place to hand Turley his worst result of the day, while Danny Griffiths headed Nigel Hughes at the tail of the top five.

Senior Rotax was a little down in numbers compared to recent events, with 11 entries spread across two weight categories, and that was all that Matthew Dowers needed to stamp his authority on proceedings.

With reigning champion Chris Davis among the missing, Dowers claimed a clean sweep of victories, despite the close attention of David Entwhistle in the opening heats and Sebastian Hutchinson in the third.

However, a mid-race retirement denied Hutchinson in the main event, while Entwhistle could only manage fourth place as Ashley Lewis took up the role of chasing Dowers, eventually coming home second, with Dilip Singh completing the podium.

Wayne Stone and Simon Wheeler shared Max 177 heat wins, but this time it was Wheeler who had the upper hand, converting a brace of early successes into a win in the final.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO – Gold Award
Jack Broughton (Birel)
Jakob Chamberlain (Birel)
Shayne Clarke (Zip)
Matthew Rees
Brooklyn Thomas
Olly Thomas (Birel)

CADET COMER
1. Tommy Foster (Zip)
2. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
3. Tom Rawlings (Zip)

CADET HONDA
1. Ryan Luscombe (Project One)
2. Ross Thomas (Wright)
3. Hugo Holmes (Zip)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
2. Tom Ford (Biz)
3. Thomas Croydon (Jade)

JUNIOR TKM
1. Ross Chell (Jade)
2. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade)
3. Joe Phillips (Jade)

MINI MAX
1. Sam Stephens
2. Ryan Nutland (Intrepid)
3. David Spiller (Tonykart)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Sam Morgan (Alonso)
2. Rob Ellis
3. Toby Allen (CRG)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)
3. Nick Turley

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Matthew Dowers (Kosmic)
2. Ashley Lewis (CRG)
3. Dilip Singh (CRG)

ROTAX 177
1. Simon Wheeler (CRG)
2. Wayne Stone (Tonykart)

Best Novice: Ian Margrain (Project One) – Honda Cadet

Driver of the Day: Sam Morgan (Alonso) – Junior Rotax

Craig Llewellyn

Satisfying win in the opening First XI fixture

FOR the first match of the 2012 cricket season, Cowbridge First XI travelled to Gorseinon on an overcast day more in keeping with winter than spring.

It's a great feeling to get that first win of the season, particularly away from home, and so it was for the First XI on Saturday.

This victory was due mainly to the fine performances of the two players making their league debuts for the club; Amin Ramly and Faris Rosmanizam – students at the University of Glamorgan.

Mike Lloyd, skipper for the day, won the toss and put the home side in to bat. This was a crucial decision owing to the unpredictable behaviour of early season pitches, and so it proved.

The home side were soon in trouble with the score 41 for 7, but a patient innings of 31 runs from Chris Richards helped by Chris Morgan (16) and a quick 14 from Rob Morgan helped the score to 92 off 47 overs.

The damage was done initially by Ali Bilal (4-34 in 15 overs) and Ryan Taylor (2-20 in 11 overs). They opened the bowling together just as threateningly as they did on a number of occasions last year.

After their spells, Amin, with his medium pace, and Faris, with his off spin, took up the attack. No other bowlers were required.

Amin was particularly impressive and returned figures of 3-25 in his 13 overs; Faris took 1-19 as they finished off Gorseinon for 92 on what proved to be a particularly unpredictable wicket.

Seven catches were taken altogether: two for Andy Finucane, two for Amin, two for Adam Wood and one for Chris Willey.

Cowbridge scored the required runs in 30 overs, but it was not easy on this wicket.

The home bowlers knew their wicket well and made it as difficult as possible for their opponents. However, when Faris got to the crease the score was 29 for two after 15 overs and there was still much to do.

Adam Wood (15) remained with him and helped him to move the score along to 82 and Alex Kurobasa (eight) stayed until the target was reached.

Faris was 42 not out at the end and appropriately scored the winning runs. He hit six fours in his innings that was notable for his fine timing and delicate late cuts. It was particularly satisfying to witness a middle order batsman playing with considerable confidence and undoubted skill.

Sam Wood (14) kept wicket impeccably, but it was the debutants who caught the eye on this occasion with bat and ball as they contributed hugely to a fine team victory.

The Second XI home match was postponed until a later date; next week, a trip to Llanelli for them.

Next weekend the First XI have a home match against Llanelli hoping to continue the good work.

A warm welcome is extended to all cricket supporters; lets pray that the weather also responds in kind.

DL

First Minister backs the 'Cake Break' campaign

The First Minister is backing the Cake Break campaign.

THE First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones AM, is lending his support to MS Society Cymru to help promote Cake Break on May 4.

Cake Break, sponsored by Wright's Baking, is a deliciously easy way for everyone to fundraise for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, while enjoying lots of cake, guilt-free.

Cake Break is taking place in MS Week (April 30-May 6), which aims to raise awareness of the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults.

Judi Rhys, Director of MS Society Cymru, commented: "Cake Break is such an easy way to help raise money for a worthwhile cause, there's no excuse not to take part – who doesn't love cake?"

If you would like to sign up, please contact MS Society Cymru on 029 2078 6676.

Under-13s close in cup final

ABOVE: Cowbridge Town AFC under-13A lost to Sully under-13A in a tremendous cup final on April 27 at Jenner Park, Barry, losing 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra time. Both teams were fantastic and congratulations to Sully. The Cowbridge boys would like to thank everyone for all their support on the night.

Mixed days for the Bees

BARRY Bees under-9s travelled to Llanishen to play three touring London Welsh teams.

The first match against a very strong and physical London Welsh team saw the Bees get off to a blistering start, with Cian Anderson putting in a huge tackle on the biggest of the London Welsh players.

From the resulting turnover, the Bees stormed onto the attack through Isaac McBride, before Cian finished in the corner. The London team were clearly taken aback at the ferocity of the Barry play and Seb Fahiya smashed his way through the middle of the London defence to make it 2-0.

London Welsh began to come to terms with the pace of the game and were able to use their power to make the score 2-1 at the break.

The Bees upped the tempo again in the second half and Cian scored a fantastic solo try from deep inside his own half.

Again the tourists responded well and forced their way over to make it 3-2; but another great try from Cian made the final score 4-2 after an excellent all-round team performance, leaving the illustrious tourists in no doubt about the quality of Welsh rugby.

The Bees were even stronger in the second match, and played some great free-flowing rugby despite the conditions.

The tries were coming thick and fast, with Cian and Ethan Watkins scoring good tries, and hard-running Cole Saunders and Harrison Kelly making inroads into the London defence.

London Welsh again responded well and pulled a try back. This was followed by an excellent individual try from James Chapman after he pounced on a loose ball.

Charlie Bale and Morgan Taylor showed some of their best form of the season, with ball in hand and in defence. The game was finished with a flourish with a try from Jake Lang, who forced his way through the defence, and two excellent trys from Jacob Pereira. In the dying seconds London Welsh scored a break-away try to make it 6-2.

In the final match the rain had increased in intensity, making it very difficult to play any constructive rugby. London Welsh were determined not to let Barry get away with the white wash, and used their physical advantages to the full.

The London team scored the first try with a well-worked move, and the Bees were now playing catch up. After an extended period of pressure, with Rhys Lloyd nearly forcing his way over, flying winger Spencer Williams scored a great try in the corner.

Barry continued to press with strong tackling from scrum half dynamo Stephen Williams and elusive winger Taylor Ross-Zeal. Again the Bees were camped on the London Welsh line, but a spilt ball was picked up by a London player who was able to run the length of the pitch to score, despite an excellent chase from Seb.

At 2-1 down the pressure was on the Bees, but in ever deteriorating conditions Barry were struggling to move the ball; and the game became a physical contest which better suited the London team, who managed to hold onto their 2-1 lead.

Overall it was a great day of rugby despite the atrocious weather. The Bees now have one more test when they travel to Abergavenny for the final tournament of the season.

Squad: Rhys Lloyd, Jacob Pereira, Isaac McBride, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Morgan Taylor, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Seb Fahiya, Harrison Kelly, Cian Anderson, Stephen Williams, Taylor Ross-Zeal, James Chapman, Jake Lang.

JM

Richie and Peter take darts doubles title

THE Barry Darts League doubles tournament had a brilliant turn out.

In the last 16: T Stephens and S Oliver bt A Shields and R Gratton; Divi and J Kerr bt C Harris and M Stranger; M Petty and J Lambert bt N Williams and D Walters; A Baker and R Miles bt R Dyer and M Copeland; S Nettleship and M Cooke bt A Williams and B Kilgour; M Bennett and R Mathews bt P Mathews and P Dibble; R Way and J Hurn bt S Moggridge and M Andrews; P Snook and R Williams bt C James and T Overton.

In the quarter-final: Tony and Stuart bt Divi and James; Ashley and Ron bt Mark and John, Simon and Mark bt Mike and Ray; Peter and Richie bt Ray and Jon.

In the semi-final: Tony and Stuart from the Station Hotel (Penarth) beat Ashley and Ron from The Runaways (Rhoose). Richie and Peter from the Drifters beat Simon and Mark from Dartonians.

The final winners of the league doubles 2012 were Richie and Peter who came out on top 4-1!

This Friday is the Premier Cup semi finals: Westend v Three Bells; Station Hotel v Plastic C.

NW

Westend looking for youth players

WESTEND Ladies Netball Club will be starting a youth team within the coming weeks and are looking for young, keen netball players who would like to join.

This will be a new team and all girls aged 12 and over are welcome, from beginners to the more experienced.

We have qualified coaches who are CRB checked, and we also have four qualified first aiders.

Training night is a Monday at Bro Morgannwg Barn from 7–9pm.

For more information call Leigh-Anne Jones on 07727 180512.

Barrivale results

Latest results from Barrivale:

Tuesday, April 17: First – Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 60.94 per cent; Second – Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 59.9 per cent; Third – Denis Mottram and Graham Jones, 57.29 per cent.

Celia and Huw won on handicap.

The AGM was held on Tuesday April 24 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected.

The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Hilary Laurence.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 25th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams event, results as follows:

First – Helen Jordan, Maureen Charlton, Jane Brook and Denis Mottram, 31 IMPS; Second – Mike Best, Mick Green, Carol James and Eileen Hughes, 29 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Motoring with Tim Saunders

LIFE ON THE OPEN ROAD – IN THE LIFESTYLE 624

WHAT do the radio DJ Johnnie Walker and the comedian Marcus Brigstocke have in common? They are both motorhome fanatics.

While Mr Walker has toured Europe in his Auto-Trail Cheyenne 630 LB, Mr Brigstocke enjoys family holidays to France in his. He told the Daily Mail: "My daughter's fondest memory wasn't our visit to Disneyland Paris, but 'waking up in the can', as she put it."

The unique selling point of a motorhome is that you can set up home where ever you wish without the hassle of pitching a tent or looking for a decent hotel.

It's called wild camping – and as long as there's enough gas and water it's a comfortable experience. We visited the Isle of Wight where it was possible to find free parking in a plethora of lay-bys.

A 45-minute crossing from Portsmouth to Fishbourne with Wightlink was just enough to make us feel like we had travelled abroad and the right amount of time for Harriett, who enjoyed being on deck and watching the waves tossing against the side.

The Lifestyle 624 motorhome.

Our home for the week was the Lifestyle 624, manufactured by Marquis Motorhomes in conjunction with Swift.

The five-berth vehicle uses a Fiat Ducato cab and a capable and efficient Fiat Multijet diesel 130bhp engine, coupled to a six-speed gearbox. It easily returned around 600 miles on a tank.

This sub-£40,000 model was loaded with equipment, making it feel a very good value proposition. The cabin was equipped with air conditioning and electric windows, together with a good quality stereo. Comfortable and luxurious chenille fabrics made for a particularly cosy homely environment.

Typically we made sure that we were out and about before 11 o'clock, having prepared our packed lunches in the kitchen with its ample surface space. While I made sandwiches, baby daughter Harriett thoroughly enjoyed rearranging the floor standing cupboards and generally creating mayhem.

One day we returned from a bracing walk to Ventnor and really fancied a hot chocolate. No problem, we just fired up the Thetford cooker and boiled some milk, really quickly *(watch the video at www.travelwriter.biz).*

Our longest stay was at Ventnor (two days), which we fell in love with because of its proximity to the beach and some stunning walking routes. We parked at the roadside directly outside the park and bowling green.

When the motorhome ran out of water it was easy to fill up the watering can in the public conveniences at the park. And when the cassette toilet needed emptying where else could be better to do this when not on a campsite? The Lifestyle's cassette toilet was fitted with wheels and an extending handle, making it so much easier to transport. However, I did get some odd looks on walking through the park with it, although I hoped that passers-by might think it luggage…

Come night we tried to keep to a strict routine so that little Harriett could stick to her usual sleeping pattern but this is always difficult on holiday.

Anyway, we usually rustled up something to eat at around 5.30pm each day. No culinary delights here, instead tinned ravioli and spaghetti stretching to a fry up on one occasion.

Living in a motorhome makes you much more aware of your fuel and water consumption, if for no other reason than you know it is not endless – there was a 65-litre fresh water tank.

Consequently, washing up was done under the trickle of cold water to ensure that there was enough Calor Gas for heating and hot showers.

The Lifestyle's shower room was well set out, particularly when comparing it to the Nuevo II, for instance, which I tested last year.

There seemed much more room in the Lifestyle, where passengers could walk throughout, even into the cabin, which was a helpful feature when Harriett, sitting in her car seat at the rear, wanted food or her teddy.

She slept in the double bunk above the driver's cabin but insisted on waking up at 3 or 4am for a feed, something she had stopped doing at home. We put this down to a change in surroundings.

Our less comfortable bed was created by manoeuvring the seats in the centre of the vehicle. It was useful that the dining table formed part of the base of the bed, meaning that it didn't have to be stored in a cupboard as in the Nuevo II. Bed making was done quite quickly.

A motorhome really is a marvellous way of travelling with a young family.

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Llantwit pupils enjoy football tournament

THIS year's inter-school football tournament was played recently at St Illtyd Primary School.

The competition didn't start well for the hosts as they came up against a well-drilled Rhws team, the reigning champions, who won 5-0 despite strong performances from three year-6 pupils.

A hard-fought match followed that saw Eagleswell beat St Athan 3-2.

A superb lobbed goal saw St Illtyd score their first goal of the tournament against St Athan and they took the lead into half-time thanks to strong performances.

It was different after the break, however, as a string of superb saves were made to keep St Athan at bay.

Two late goals were scored as St Illtyd tired.

It was, therefore, left to the final round of matches to determine the winner. Rhws came from behind to secure the point they needed to retain the title while St Illtyd beat Eagleswell 5-3 thanks to strong performances from the team, including a hat-trick, to ensure St Illtyd finished with a win.

Congratulations, and thanks go to all the teams, especially Rhws for regaining the trophy.

Bluebirds' racing syndicate can now celebrate a big win

NINE Cardiff City football supporters, headed by former Cardiff City player Scott Young, who formed a horse racing syndicate called Bluebirds Racing, had plenty to celebrate when their horse, *Captain Sharpe*, a four-year-old chestnut gelding, won at odds of 10-1 at Cheltenham last week.

One member of the syndicate Tim Jones, a former leading amateur rider who was the first jockey to win a race on the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner *Norton's Coin*, told me: "We are just a bunch of regular Cardiff City supporters and the syndicate is headed by former City star Scott Young, who will be remembered for knocking Leeds out of the FA Cup."

One of the syndicate's members is a dentist and another is a bin-man, but all have one thing in common – they are Cardiff City supporters.

Captain Sharpe, a handicap hurdler, is trained at Bargoed by Bernard Llewellyn and was ridden by his stable jockey and grandson Robbie Williams, who won last season's amateur riders' flat championship, and is one of Wales' most promising young jockeys. He was selected earlier this year to race in the USA, and has hopes of winning this year's amateur riders' jump jockeys championship.

Robbie's mother Beth is a former succesful amateur rider, as is his uncle John Llewellyn, who is assistant trainer to his father Bernard Llewellyn, well known in horse racing circles.

BRIAN LEE

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01446 781272 17/18

Contents of Hair Salon for Sale
All in excellent condition. Owner retiring, due to ill health. No reasonable offer refused.
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Full set of Titleist Irons
Complete golfing kit: 3 woods, 2 bags, trolley, waterproofs, brolly, shoes (size 9), golf balls etc.
Two spare drivers, all in first class condition.
Reason for sale, due to back problems.
£440
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07522 539181 18/19

Maxi Cosi Childs Safety Seat Priori S.P.S. - £55
Mamas & Papas Pipi pushchair Complete with universal rain cover- £35
Both Exc. Con.
01656 841303 17/18

Tiffany Style Touch Lamp £10.
Ikea folding garden table with slat wooden top £7.50. Box of flower arranging materials, plus books £20. Ikea two drawer chests £15 each or £25 a pair.
Tel: 01446 794822 18/19

Zimmerman Upright Piano
together with piano stool, excellent condition, bought from new, length 142cm, height 110cm, maxi width 52cm.
£1,600
Buyer to collect
02920 657069 17/18

Fender Stratocaster Guitar
Cherry Red, Standard Fender Pickups, Good condition, 60th Anniversary Model (Mexico) - £340
Marshal Amp MG15FX
Rarely used, lots of features, including store facility - £65
01446 795137 18/19

Public Notices

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern.

We, **Barry Athletic Ltd** do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a **Premises Licence** at **Paget Road, Barry Island, Barry** known as **Barry Athletic Club Ltd.**

The application is to vary the club premises certificate to allow the supply of alcohol and regulated entertainment between the hours of 1200 and 2300 and to permit music and dancing on permitted occasions.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

AJ Oliver, Chairman
27th April, 2012

Family Notices

RICHARDS
Cheryl Ann

Martin, Mavis, Scott, Philippa and Andrew wish to express sincere thanks for the many cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received following their sad loss. A special thanks to the staff of Ward 6, Princess of Wales, Bridgend, for the love and devotion shown to Cheryl during her time there, and also to the staff of Holme Tower Hospice, Penarth, for their continued support. Thanks to the Reverend Chris Seaton for the beautiful service to celebrate Cheryl's day and to all those who attended the service. Thanks also to Green Willow Funerals for their sensitivity and help to the family.

God bless you all.

PATRICIA MALIA
(1935 - 2012)

We, Pat's long standing partner, Dennis and her children, Richard and Helen, thank most sincerely her many friends for their kind tokens of support, not only since her passing but during her long illness.

She will be fondly remembered for her kind, gentle and cheerful disposition and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Birthdays

JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE • JOE

Happy 12th Birthday JOE BAKER on 5th May, 2012

Lots of Love, Mum, Dad, Abigail and all the family.
x x x

To a very special Daughter and Sister **HANNAH** on your 16th Birthday

Love Mum, Dad (Steve), Andrew, Emily and Faye
x x x

Happy 16th Birthday Hannah Louise
on 7th May
With all our love
Uncle Phil, Auntie Sue, Luke, Carly, Aaron, Kirsty, Ava & Great-Gramp xxx

16 16

Hannah
Happy 16th Birthday
7th May 2012
You are a Very Special and Wonderful Granddaughter.
Loads of Love, Nan, Grandad and Great-Gramp xxx

Thank You

HEADS FIRST

After 24 years Avril is taking a well deserved retirement and Niki is delighted to be working with Lauren at Hair Design.

Best regards to our wonderful customers and thank you for your loyalty over the years.

See you next door but one in Island Road.

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10	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCH DYN TT	EXTREME BLUE	£9500	£8600
11	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYN TT 1.5 DCI	EXTREME BLUE	£13000	£12500
12	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCH DYN TT	MERCURY	£11495	£10500
11	RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYN TT	BLACK	£11500	£11000
58	RENAULT TWINGO GT 1.2TCE	MERCURY	£6500	£5800
11	RENAULT CLIO 1.2TCE DYN TT	BLACK	£9500	£9000
11	RENAULT WIND 1.2 TCE	BLACK	£10500	£9999
10	RENAULT MODUS 1.2TCE DYN	ICE BLUE	£6600	£6300
60	PEUGEOT 207 1.4	SPORT GREY	£8000	£7250
08	HONDA CIVIC 2.0 TYPE R GT	RED	£10500	£10000
09	SEAT IBIZA SE1.4 SPORT	RED	£6999	£6500

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• Electric • 17,000 miles

£63 PER MONTH

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• Grey • 8,000 miles

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TRAVEL SAFE

IT was Toad of Toad Hall in *The Wind in the Willows*, who embodied the joy of the motor car and the lure of the open road.

His love affair with all things motoring came to premature end because of his reckless driving; but for those of us who want to get out and about in the car for days out, short breaks or holidays in the next few months, being properly prepared can save a lot of frustration.

The last thing anyone wants is to embark on a long journey, only to break down and be delayed for hours at the roadside.

It is essential that you are properly MoT-ed. In January 2012, the MoT test changed to include new pieces of equipment such as warning lights and airbags.

You should make sure you have passed the MoT well in advance of an important journey, because if you fail a couple of days before you are due to go away, time can be short for a garage to order that essential part.

The motorcycle MoT is slightly different to the one for cars and vans, but still has to be passed once a year.

An AA spokesman advised: "People need to make sure they have the right tyres on their vehicle; that they are in good condition and correctly inflated. These requirements are vital for braking and cornering safety.

"It is good to pick a quiet time to take your car along for an MoT, service or check.

"Garages can be busy places, particularly first thing in the morning as vehicles are dropped off on the way to work and in the evening as they're collected on the way home.

"If you need to discuss anything with the garage try to pick a quieter time – late morning or early afternoon perhaps.

"Be specific about what you want done and get an estimate.

"If it's a 'service' you want then tell the garage the car's age and mileage so they can match it to the manufacturer's schedule.

"You need to ask for an estimate too. Particular items like brake fluid, the timing belt or antifreeze may need changing depending on the mileage so costs can vary quite a lot.

"On the other hand, if it's a 'standard'or 'menu' service you're booking then you should check yourself if any additional items are needed or ask the garage's advice."

When driving abroad, the following check list includes items you will need: GB sticker; headlamp beam converters; a warning triangle; a high visibility jacket; a first aid kit; and a fire extinguisher.

Toad of Toad Hall's motoring career came to a sorry end.

However, if you follow the AA's simple advice you will have many years of happy driving on the open road!

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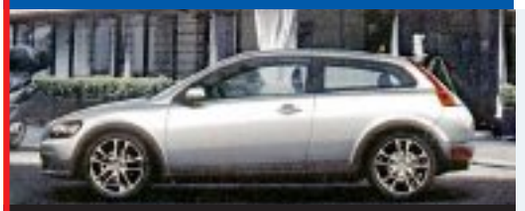

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GEM sport

Trophy joy for Cowbridge Comprehensive rugby team

RECENTLY, Cowbridge Comprehensive's year-7 rugby team played against Stanwell in the Vale Cup final.

The previous meeting between these two sides pointed to a Cowbridge victory, but Stanwell played extremely well and would surely be looking to show an improvement in the present outing. Therefore, the game was definitely going to be an interesting one.

Both teams started very well, with each side's defence staying solid and conceding no tries. Cowbridge did make a couple of nice breaks from Bevan Howells, Rhys Bradshaw and Rhys Durlucia, but little handling errors were frustrating their attack and stopping tries from being scored.

Stanwell were also making good runs of their own, but the organised Cowbridge defence would not let them pass.

Tries always looked imminent with Cowbridge showing an excellent balance of power and pace, and towards the end of the first half, a try was scored.

The ball was moved from right to left along the backline, with some great passing, and Morgan Gore was put into space for a easy run in. The extras were added by a conversion from Bevan Howells.

The first half had ended, and the score was 7 – 0 to Cowbridge. Cowbridge came out for the second half with a clear purpose, to score more tries and win the game. Straight from the off, Cowbridge were playing better rugby, but Stanwell's forwards were doing all they could to slow and disrupt Cowbridge's ball, and it was working.

Some quick thinking from Jake Griffiths, where he picked up the ball on the left touchline, ran down the blindside, and dived in to score in the corner. Again the try was expertly converted by Bevan Howells.

Cowbridge then finished the game off with another try, which was converted by Morgan Gore. **The final whistle blew, the score was 21-0 to Cowbridge**, and they were the Vale under-12 champions of 2012. *Player of the match: Sam Corkill.*

Busy week for Cowbridge RFC as final awaits

AS the end of the season draws near, last week was a busy one for Cowbridge RFC.

Cowbridge travelled to Llanishen on April 24 for the semi-final of the Cardiff and District Cup and, playing with great team spirit and determination, secured a place in the final on May 2 against the third division champions.

All the scoring came in the first half on a very sunny evening. Lively scrum half Matt Pound scored from a pick up from a scrum by No8 and captain Ross Llewellyn that released him, and he went over from five metres out. Outside half Carwyn Morgan added the extras.

Cowbridge continued to attack and scored again an almost carbon copy when again Llewellyn broke from the back of the scrum. This time Pound was caught, but managed to slip a one-handed pass out to left wing Richie Howson to score.

A great conversion from the touchline and a penalty by Morgan stretched the lead.

Old Illtydians had a very lively customer in their scrum half and after a period of pressure and ducking under tackles he crossed for a converted try.

Just before half-time, a long kick downfield was chased by hooker Luke Adams. He pressured the left wing and then a dropped ball was picked up and over went Howson for his second try that went unconverted.

Half-time score: 22-7 to Cowbridge.

The second half was more competitive and Cowbridge kept up a great forward effort and terrific defence to see the game out and put themselves into the final.

On Saturday (April 28) they welcomed Ogmore Vale to the Athletic.

The club had already secured third place in Division Five South Central but were still looking to finish the league season on a high with a victory over fourth-placed Vale.

The away fixture had been a tough one and on a cool, blustery afternoon this was to be no different.

Cowbridge started well with a powerful forward drive resulting in a penalty in the first minute, easily converted by No10 Carwyn Morgan.

Talismanic forward Steve Birchenough had to depart with a toe injury to be replaced by Rhys Jones.

The Ogmore Vale pack appeared to be gaining the upper hand for the next 10 minutes, but Cowbridge brilliantly ran the ball out of defence into the opposition's 22.

Then fine running by the backs and flanker Luke Boys resulted in full back Huw Lougher jinking over for a fine try, converted by Morgan.

Five minutes later a loose kick by Ogmore was fielded by fleet-footed winger Liam Rowland, who outstripped the visitors' defence to score an exhilarating try to give Cowbridge a 15-0 lead.

Ogmore Vale, though, had other ideas, and forward pressure paid off with the ball spinning out to the right wing in the corner.

Despite some thrilling running form Cowbridge forwards and backs it was Ogmore Vale who scored a second try just before half-time with a pushover.

Half-time: Cowbridge 15, Ogmore Vale 10.

The second half was a tough one for Cowbridge, with Lougher yellow carded after 10 minutes and the team under the cosh up front for long periods, but fine defence kept them out, particularly from Boys and Dai Popham. One magnificent tackle by centre Ilia Pellegrotti saved a certain try.

Among all this, Cowbridge still managed the odd foray into the Ogmore Vale half and the only score was a fine penalty from the golden boot of Carwyn Morgan.

Both sides had tries disallowed in the half but the Cowbridge defence held out.

Final score: Cowbridge 18, Ogmore Vale 10.

A tough game under difficult conditions, though a bit scrappy at times. This was a good team performance, with the boys showing great resilience, particularly in the second half.

The Ogmore Vale match was sponsored by 'The Friends of Cowbridge RFC', who had a great afternoon. Many thanks to all who participated and particularly to Talina Llewellyn, who provided a fantastic buffet, much appreciated by the sponsors (and most others in the club!).

The evening continued with the presentation ceremony and hog roast. Congratulations to all those honoured – full details next week, along with a report of the cup final and a review of the season.

In the meantime, well done to the players and coaches for a very good season, with some fine rugby played throughout, and thanks to everyone else who has contributed.

RV/RK/RP

END OF A PERFECT SEASON FOR THE COWBRIDGE UNDER-15s TEAM

THE Cowbridge under-15s drew their unbeaten season to a close with a tour to Devon and Cornwall.

As well as surfing, go-karting and zip wiring, the boys had the unenviable task of taking on both the Cornish Champions (Newquay), and the Devon Champions (Barnstaple), over the course of a long weekend.

As reigning Blues Champions, the boys have taken to the road the last two seasons with a view to playing as many of the district and county champions in the neighbouring regions of Wales and England as possible.

While this has proved particularly difficult this year, due to the boys' Dewar Shield commitments, they have nevertheless played and beaten the Dorset and Wiltshire champions, the joint Gloucester Cup winners, the Bristol Combination Cup winners, the Scarlets' champions, the Pembrokeshire champions, the Ospreys Cup winners, and both the winners and the runners up of the Carmarthenshire Cup. They added both the Cornish and the Devon champions to their tally.

The boys have now enjoyed an incredible run of 28 straight wins since 2010, with only one loss in 50 matches stretching back to 2009. Over the course of this season, they have achieved an average of 45 points for, and fewer than three points against per game.

Domestically, the boys have won every major tournament available for them to enter in Wales, including The Blues Cup, their own Cardiff and Vale District Tournament (twice), Bridgend, Kidwelly (twice), Pencoed, Trimsaran (four times), Pontyclun, Llanelli Wanderers (twice) and The Abergavenny Invitation (twice), the latter two being amongst the largest tournaments in Europe.

The team relies heavily on the talent available locally with 20 of the boys (out of a squad of 25), being drawn from Cowbridge Comprehensive, and are proud to supply 19 players to the Cardiff and Vale District Schools squads. These district sides are monitored closely by the Cardiff Blues for the purpose of selecting their Blues under-16 squad, and we are hopeful that a number of the boys will gain selection.

Next season will again be a challenging one, with the club having to slot in fixtures around the boys' Cardiff Blues commitments, but they have already pencilled in prestigious fixtures against Millfield and The RBS Daily Mail Twickenham finalists; RGS High Wycombe.

Squad: Josh Thomas, Josh Rodgers, Llwyd Elms, Sam Laity, Nicky Griffiths, Liam Martin, Dan Evans, Ben Chester, Alex Guard, Will Brinkley, Harry Goodfellow, Adam Dix, Joe Gaughan, Dan Holder, Jonny Hunt, Marc Herbert, Harry Dowell Bennett, Arron Bowman, Matt Locke, Sam Richards, Matt Howells, Freddie Dewey, Tom Higgins, Joel Ringer.

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Bethan set to swim for Wales

BETHAN Sloan, a 15-year-old swimmer from Cowbridge, is to compete at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre ahead of the world's greatest athletes after being selected to represent Wales at the Sainsbury's 2012 School Games finals.

Backed by National Lottery funding from Sport England, the Sainsbury's 2012 School Games is a multi-sport event for school-aged elite athletes that will take place from May 6-9. 1,600 young people will compete across 12 sports, six of which include disability competition.

More than 35,000 spectators are expected at the event with young people from schools across the country heading to London to watch the action.

A delighted Bethan said: "I'm really proud to have been selected for the Sainsbury's UK School Games 2012. There are 12 different sports represented by 1,600 competitors, and I'm one of them! I can't wait to experience the atmosphere at the Games. It will be my first competition representing Wales and I'm really excited about the opportunities it will provide."

Under-13s impress

COWBRIDGE entertained Chobham Rugby Club from Surrey in the final game of the season.

With the visitors bringing a large squad of 40 to Wales, the game was played in three sessions to give all the players some game time.

Cowbridge have become accustomed to playing sides far bigger than them this season, but Chobham were easily the tallest and heaviest team they have encountered to date.

In the first session the home side struggled to get any meaningful possession and they did well to contain the English side to two tries and a conversion before the break.

In the second session both sides made changes, with Cowbridge introducing a number of promising players from the under-12s.

Cowbridge levelled the score within five minutes when an excellent break and kick ahead by outside half Rhydian Williams led to centre Morgan Gore collecting the ball and scoring under the posts. Duncan Ace converted to make the score 12–all.

Three further tries by Dewi Bennett, Rhydian Williams and second row Josh Evans, who was outstanding in the loose, saw **Cowbridge lead at the break by 24 points to 12**.

The final session belonged to Chobham, who scored three tries, two converted, to an unconverted try by Dan Bunney for Cowbridge, **leaving the score at full-time Cowbridge 29-Chobham 31**.

From the under-12s, Max Cunnington, Harrison Ashby and Luke Beattie were the pick of the backs, while Ioan Lewis, Ellis Simon, Jake Griffiths and Cameron Roy all played their part in a thoroughly entertaining game.

AD